

Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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THURSDAY JUNE 25, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

## Free quarantine for residents

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**R**eturning residents who are concerned about being put in home quarantine in a small house where social distancing may be impossible may still be able to get quarantined at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe at no cost.

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

This was clarified yesterday by Patrick Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative. "Returning residents are allowed to quarantine [at Kanoa Resort] at no cost if they choose to, if they feel that they might be jeopardizing family members health, and they don't have a big enough

See **FREE** on **Page 4**

### Over \$49 million stimulus checks already issued

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Finance has already issued over \$49 million worth of the economic impact payments, popularly referred to as "stimulus checks," in the CNMI.

Speaking at a radio news briefing yesterday, Finance Secretary David Atalig disclosed that the department has disbursed over \$49 million from the stimulus program, and that there is still about \$6 million more to be issued. The

See **CHECKS** on **Page 4**

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 24, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	225	1	226
Recovered	174	0	174
Active	46	1	47
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	10,833		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	1	0	1
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,169**		

\*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

\*\*Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

### IPI workers stage 2nd protest rally



» **U.S.A. Fanter, Pacific Rim counsel Thomson says judge did not freeze IPI's accounts**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Scores of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC workers staged another peaceful protest yesterday in front of the Horiguchi Building in Garapan where

the federal court is to demand the "unfreezing" of IPI's payroll bank accounts so they can get paid.

The workers held a two-hour protest as U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona

See **IPI** on **Page 4**

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC workers stage another protest yesterday in front of the Horiguchi Building in Garapan where the U.S. District Court for the NMI is located.

KRIZEL TUAZON

### PSS classes now set to start in August

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System aims to resume classes on

Aug. 31 and is looking at a mix between virtual and in-class instruction to deal with the social distancing measures in place due to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic.

Initially, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada was unsure about a September opening stating that a Sep-

tember opening was tentative. However, due to the current community vulnerability level being at Level Blue, PSS is now looking at an earlier start on Aug. 31.

See **PSS** on **Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

The word "unique" in its name pretty much sums up Unique Saipan's specialty items.

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#### NATION

Scores of mourners pay their final respects to Rayshard Brooks at an Atlanta church.

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#### WORLD

Brazil is testing an experimental coronavirus vaccine created by Oxford University.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



## Local

## Atalig: We only paid straight time



Members of the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding are joined Tuesday by other lawmakers as they begin their review on documents related to their oversight on awarded contracts, newly-hired employees, and government overtime payments related to the CNMI's COVID-19 emergency and response.

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The contracts and payments that the Torres administration has incurred for its COVID-19 response efforts are all within the procurement rules and regulations, according to Finance Secretary David Atalig.

"I'm confident that we've done our due diligence. I'm

confident that we've done procurement based on the emergency regulations, and I stand firm that those contracts and payments that we've flagged for the COVID-19 mitigation are all within the procurement rules and regulations," said Atalig in an interview during a radio news briefing yesterday.

Atalig also disclosed that he regularly communicates with

Attorney General Edward Manibusan, to ensure that he is aware of the contracts the government is entering into, and be provided with all the facts needed to verify the legality of the procurement of the contracts.

He said that all workers, including Cabinet members, signed a form required by the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency called a Category B form, in order to get FEMA reimbursement. This form states the reason for working, that the worker is being reassigned to respond directly with the COVID-19, and the hours worked during the operations.

"If that has not gone through review of Homeland Security and Public Assistance, then they will not be compensated. On top of that, the personnel action needs to be processed and approved by the CNMI Office of Personnel Management...in order for us at Finance to make any payments," he added.

Atalig said that Cabinet

members and some directors were paid additional time. "They were paid additional time. In terms of their pay during the COVID-19, they were paid 1 to 1. No Cabinet members received the 1.5, or as people are alluding to at times, with how things were done at during Super Typhoon Yutu, 2.5. So nothing was paid. We only paid straight time, and most of the time, it's straight time after they worked over 80 hours," he said.

Atalig said he himself sub-

mitted his hours worked for COVID-19, but stressed that he has not received any overtime pay from those hours.

This comes as an ad hoc committee of the House of Representatives, called the House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding, conduct an oversight on the contracts entered into and payments made, in relation to the CNMI government's COVID-19 emergency and response operations.

## Scheduled water outages

There will be a scheduled emergency water service interruption today, June 25, 2020, at 8:30am for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of Lower Dandan and As Lito, specifically on Chalan Monsignor Martinez from the Shell Dandan gas station to Happy Market in As Lito.

The cause of the emergency water interruption is due to a 2-inch service lateral leak located on the northbound outer lane of Chalan Monsignor Martinez and Tinanom Place. CUC water operators are scheduled to begin the repairs at 8:30am and anticipate completion by 4:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water service soon after.

**Water outage in Kagman**  
There will be a scheduled

water service interruption on Friday, June 26, 2020, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for customers residing on Ates Drive in Kagman Phase 2.

The cause of the scheduled water interruption is due to an 8-inch mainline leak on Ates Drive in Kagman. CUC water operators are scheduled to make the necessary repairs and anticipate completion by 4:30pm. Water service to the affected area will resume soon after.

For the safety of the men and women at the jobsite, proceed with caution and/or take alternative routes.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation>). (PR)

## Fund asks court to suspend PSS, Dr. Ada's suit for 3 mos.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The NMI Settlement Fund has asked the Superior Court to suspend for three months the proceedings in the lawsuit filed by the Public School System and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance Secretary David Atalig.

In an emergency motion filed Tuesday, Settlement Fund counsel Nicole M. Torres-Ripple said a stay is necessary to give the Settlement Fund enough time to request the determination of the federal court on issues raised by PSS and Ada relating to the interpretation and enforcement of the settlement agreement entered in Betty Johnson's class action in 2013, where the CNMI government will make annual payments to the settlement to fund at least 75% of pension benefits. All Retirement Fund assets were then transferred to the Settlement Fund, with Joyce Tang as the

court-appointed trustee.

Torres-Ripple said the questions raised in PSS and Ada's complaint require interpretation of the settlement agreement in Johnson's class action, over which the District Court has exclusive jurisdiction.

On Tuesday, the Settlement Fund also filed a motion before the District Court, requesting that the court resolve PSS' challenges to the constitutionally-mandated payment obligations owed the Settlement Fund under the settlement agreement entered in the Johnson class action.

Torres-Ripple said in the case filed by PSS and Ada, they allege violations of the CNMI Constitution based on eight statutory appropriations identified as expenditures in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget set forth in Public Law 21-8, including some appropriations for payments under the settlement agreement.

Torres-Ripple said the Settlement Fund has sought the District Court's interpretation and enforcement of

the settlement agreement and judgment, which necessarily includes PSS' challenges to the funding source for payment obligations under the settlement agreement raised in PSS's complaint and motion for summary judgment.

The lawyer said the District Court has continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the interpretation and enforcement of the settlement agreement pursuant to a section of the settlement agreement.

She pointed out that the issues raised by PSS and Ada involve the invalidation of appropriation and budget laws for payment obligations under the settlement agreement, which, in turn, would affect the government's ability to satisfy obligations and risk default under the terms of the settlement agreement.

"Because the issues require interpretation and application of the settlement agreement, this case should be stayed so that the District Court can address the issues," Torres-Ripple said.



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# PSS renews request to amend instructional minutes

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Public School System has renewed a request to the Board of Education to amend the minimum instructional minutes for this coming school year.

During the BOE Instructional Services and Assessment Committee meeting last Friday, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada reiterated his request to amend the policy. Ada is proposing a minimum of 32,400 minutes of instructional time for kindergarten students, 64,800 minutes of instructional time for students in Grades 1-5, 54,000 minutes of instructional time for students in Grades 6-8, and 54,000 minutes of

instructional for students in Grades 9-12.

PSS usually provides 180 days of instruction to its students from kindergarten through the 12th grade. Ada said the proposed instructional calendar provides flexibility in determining how these minutes are distributed.

"Considering we have only a four-day school week this coming school year due to the typhoon and the pandemic, we also anticipate budget shortfalls. So we need flexibility as we face future disasters, calamities and pandemics, and budget challenges," Ada said.

BOE member Andrew Or-

sini and ISA committee head agreed that PSS has to allow school operations and teachers to have some flexibility due to the current health crisis and the economic downturn.

Orsini informed PSS that Senate vice president Sen. Jude Hofschneider already introduce back in January a bill, Senate Bill 21-49, that would allow this but it remains pending in the Senate.

Orsini asked for guidance from PSS legal counsel Tiberius Mocanu regarding the instructional minutes since there is no decision on the legislation yet.

Mocanu said the school system has two ways to im-

plement a new instructional calendar, one of which is for the Legislature to pass the bill. "This is the cleanest way of getting this done so that we are in line with the statute that governs the duration of the school year," he said.

The second way, Mocanu said, is for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to suspend the regulations for the 180-day in-

## 6.0-magnitude quake on Rota

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.0 occurred about 28 miles southeast of Rota at 3:50am yesterday, June 24, 2020. Based on all available data, there is no tsunami threat to Guam, Rota, Tinian, or Saipan from this earthquake. Some areas may have experienced

shaking. Mocanu explained that since the CNMI is still in a state of emergency, the governor has the ability to suspend both statute and regulations through an executive order. However, once the state of emergency ends, PSS has to again provide 180 instructional days as required by law because the BOE has no power to

The CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management's Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point advises the public to be observant and exercise normal caution if you are near or in the ocean. Otherwise, no action is required. (PR)

change the statute.

"We can change the regulations all we want, but so long as the Education Act still mandates 180 days, we are stuck with 180 days," he said.



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## IN TRIAL TO ESTABLISH MECHANIC'S LIEN

## Expert witness: IPI owes contractor \$2.08M

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona started yesterday a bench trial to determine if a former contractor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has enough evidence to establish a mechanic's lien on IPI's property.

U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd.'s first witness, John Robertson, a U.S. mainland-based structural and civil engineer, testified through video that he agreed with U.S.A. Fanter's evaluation that its contract with IPI was 41% complete. Robertson testified that U.S.A. Fanter was only paid \$300,000 and that it is owed at least

\$2,089,000. He later agreed, though, with IPI counsel Cong Nie during cross-examination that he has no personal knowledge of how U.S.A. Fanter arrived at that calculation.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at noon, Nie was still questioning Robertson.

U.S.A. Fanter counsel Colin M. Thompson earlier said in an interview that they had established a case based on probable cause finding. "We established that by the evidence. The court issued a mechanic's lien," Thompson said. A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that im-

prove the property.

At this bench trial, Thompson said, they need to prove it by a higher standard—a preponderance of evidence. "So we are presenting evidence, witnesses," he said, adding that they would probably present a total of four witnesses.

Thompson said if Manglona will find a preponderance of evidence, then she will issue a mechanic's lien and the case will continue.

"We do have a mechanic's lien now but we need to prove by a higher standard. ... If we are successful, the mechanic's lien will remain and the case will continue while we prove breach of contract and other remedies," the lawyer said.

## PSS

From Page 1

According to Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, associate commissioner for Student and Support Services, PSS has different plans for each community vulnerability level that all require approval from the Board of Education before any of them can be implemented.

If community vulnerability remains at Level Blue, PSS' plan is to do a hybrid set up by mixing virtual learning with in-class instruction in the next school year.

Pangelinan explained there will be a certain number of students who will be

on campus while others will receive instruction through remote learning. Pangelinan said the same goes for teachers and instructors—some will teach on site while others will teach online.

Pangelinan said school principals will help the PSS management team determine who among the students and teachers will be on site or online.

"Some of the factors to consider [is] who is at risk, who has pre-existing conditions, [and] who refuses to be on campus. There's a lot of apprehension in our community and there are going to be families and PSS staff that may not want to be on-site because of their concerns. We need to provide them alternatives," she said.

PSS is also considering a partial reopening of schools with students coming in staggered cohorts.

Pangelinan said if the community vulnerability level becomes Green, the entire student population, faculty, and staff members can return to their schools.

Pangelinan said the hybrid system and partial reopening of schools will take effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"There is still a threat of a resurgence of cases, so we need to put every precaution in place. We are going to go hybrid until we are absolutely sure that every child, every staff member, every teacher is safe," Pangelinan said.

## IPI

From Page 1

V. Manglona presided over the start of a bench trial about a mechanic's lien filed by IPI's former contractor, U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd. A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

The protesters' chants and vehicle's honks outside the building could be heard in the courtroom faintly as court proceedings were ongoing.

Colin M. Thompson, who is the lawyer for contractors U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd. and Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, said in a later interview that Manglona did not freeze IPI's accounts but merely granted Pacific Rim's writs of execution against some of IPI's bank accounts. An IPI management official, who requested not be identified, said that this has resulted in the banks putting a hold on IPI's accounts and IPI workers not being able to cash their paychecks.

The workers first gathered at IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan before proceeding by buses, vans, and other vehicles to the parking lot of Kristo Rai Church in front of the Horiguchi Building shortly before 10am. The trial inside started at 9am. The workers faced the Horiguchi Building and held up placards and streamers that read "Open up the IPI bank account," and "We want to get paid (sic)."

Bluent Peker, a project manager for the 90-plus Turkish team, said that IPI's payroll account has money for the workers' salaries and they don't understand why the payroll account is frozen.

"Since one month we are waiting for our salaries," said Peker, adding that the court should unfreeze the payroll account and give control of this account to the CNMI Department of Labor.

"We don't want to be involved in other things. Just have a mechanism to make a payment for all the people. We are here to support Saipan. We are here to finish the project for the Saipan people. We are here to increase the tourism," he said.

Peker said they are protesting because they want the court to hear them. "What we want is very clear. Unfreeze our money, we want our salaries," he said.

Peker pointed out that, while everyone else are staying home, they are working 10 to 11 hours a day, seven 7 days a week, to be able to complete the project.

"We are builders," Peker said, adding that the court and the government should help them. He said that what's happening now at IPI's project is they're only doing cleaning and security work. He said the rainy season is coming and they are trying to prepare the building for that.

Patrick Hsieh, a Taiwanese carpenter, said all they want is to get paid for their work. Hsieh said they want Manglona to release at least one of IPI's bank accounts so the workers will get paid regularly and finish the project. Hsieh said some of the Taiwanese workers are leaving the CNMI because of this situation.

Corrado Modica, an Italian, said there are 30 Italian workers at IPI and that they are upset because although IPI gave them the two paychecks they could not get cash because IPI's bank accounts are frozen. Modica said their families back home are waiting for the money.

Last April, Manglona ordered that for the lien amount of \$2.89 million U.S.A. Fanter shall have a mechanic's lien to attach upon the improvements of IPI's hotel-casino complex in Garapan.

Manglona ordered that U.S.A. Fanter shall also have a mechanic's lien to attach upon the real property interest of IPI in a 1.567 hectare lot in Garapan. The fee simple owner of the lot is the Commonwealth Investment Company LLC. IPI has a leasehold interest on this land.

Manglona made a probable cause

finding in favor of U.S.A. Fanter last March 27 for the issuance and attachment of a mechanic's lien.

U.S.A. Fanter is suing IPI for allegedly refusing to pay \$2,089,345 over landscaping improvements for IPI's hotel-casino project. U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay \$2.08 million in contract damages. The company also sought payment for interest and attorney's fees.

IPI, through counsel Joseph Horey, argued that U.S.A. Fanter has not complied with the mandatory mediation clause.

## CHECKS

From Page 1

remaining amount is for taxpayers that have had some issues in terms of their tax returns, or for those who needed to verify or confirm their dependents.

"We're releasing weekly once taxpayers' returns are rectified and cleared. We are releasing stimulus checks on a weekly basis, every Friday. Data is being uploaded and checks are printed on Friday afternoon and in the mail by Saturday morning," he said.

He also advised members of the community who have yet to receive their stimulus checks, or are having any issues related to it, to contact the Finance Department.

"If you have any issues, you have not received your stimulus checks or you feel there's an error in your stimulus checks, please contact [Revenue & Tax at 664-1067, 664-1000, or

664-1019], or you can email stimulus@dof.gov.mp and we will respond as soon as quickly as we can," he added.

People can also visit the Department of Finance's office at the Joeten-Dandan Building. They are open from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Stimulus checks provide up to \$1,200 for each eligible individual, \$2,400 for joint returns, and \$500 for each qualifying child.

As far as those hoping for a second batch of stimulus checks, Atalig said that that will be all up to the federal government.

"About a second stimulus, that is all up to the U.S. federal government, Congress, and the President should sign a new bill. We understand that there's a HEROES Act that was passed by the U.S. [House of Representatives] but it's in the Senate and, until we hear anything further, we're not planning on any second stimulus," Atalig said.

## FREE

From Page 1

home to practice social distancing," said Guerrero.

This comes soon after the CNMI government announced new quarantine procedures in the CNMI for passengers arriving from off-island.

Esther Muña, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer, added that the success of the community in complying with the health directives was one of the reasons why home quarantine was implemented.

"Everyone has really been doing a lot of personal responsibility to flatten the curve, so we are here because of our people," said Muña.

Muña added that one can still prevent COVID-19 infection in a small home by continuously practicing wearing a mask, wiping down everything, and doing as much social distancing as possible. She added that you won't only have to wear a mask outside but inside as well.

"For example, even if a household member gets the flu, you won't kick them out, you'd make that person wear a mask, and be able to function within the house," said Muña.

Additionally, there will be 40 passengers from last June 20 who will be getting tested for COVID-19 at Kanoa Resort today. These passengers will be getting tested via drive-thru.

## Penalties

A system has been put in place once the Saipan airport starts accepting in-

ternational flights.

"Upon arrival, we have the Sara Alert database, we have multiple layers and countermeasure to prevent slips," said Warren Villagomez, who heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

Villagomez said that passenger's health declaration gets captured, which will include one's full name. Then the passenger will move on to the geo-mapping, where a staff at the airport will pinpoint where a passenger's residence is.

"It's your word and data they [airport staff] are entering, but there're multiple ways that we're capturing information, so if you don't report, and we will send you a reminder, it's going to be a strict enforcement with the Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies," said Villagomez.

To date, the CNMI has 30 confirmed cases, with one active case and two deaths.

## COVID-19 on Guam

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported one case that tested that positive for COVID-19 through Diagnostic Laboratory Services. The case reported no contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

According to the JIC, out of the 226 confirmed cases, 42 are military service members (35 of them have been recently identified among a unit deployed to Anderson Air Force Base) and 184 are civilians.

To date, Guam has a total of 226 confirmed cases, with five deaths, 174 released from isolation, and 47 active cases.

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[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



## IN TRIAL TO ESTABLISH MECHANIC'S LIEN

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The protesters' chants and vehicle's honks outside the building could be heard in the courtroom faintly as court proceedings were ongoing.

Colin M. Thompson, who is the lawyer for contractors U.S.A. Fanter Corp. Ltd. and Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, said in a later interview that Manglona did not freeze IPI's accounts but merely granted Pacific Rim's writs of execution against some of IPI's bank accounts. An IPI management official, who requested not be identified, said that this has resulted in the banks putting a hold on IPI's accounts and IPI workers not being able to cash their paychecks.

The workers first gathered at IPI's casino/resort project in Garapan before proceeding by buses, vans, and other vehicles to the parking lot of Kristo Rai Church in front of the Horiguchi Building shortly before 10am. The trial inside started at 9am. The workers faced the Horiguchi Building and held up placards and streamers that read "Open up the IPI bank account," and "We want to get paid (sic)."

Bluent Peker, a project manager for the 90-plus Turkish team, said that IPI's payroll account has money for the workers' salaries and they

don't understand why the payroll account is frozen.

"Since one month we are waiting for our salaries," said Peker, adding that the court should unfreeze the payroll account and give control of this account to the CNMI Department of Labor.

"We don't want to be involved in other things. Just have a mechanism to make a payment for all the people. We are here to support Saipan. We are here to finish the project for the Saipan people. We are here to increase the tourism," he said.

Peker said they are protesting because they want the court to hear them. "What we want is very clear. Unfreeze our money, we want our salaries," he said.

Peker pointed out that, while everyone else are staying home, they are working 10 to 11 hours a day, seven 7 days a week, to be able to complete the project.

"We are builders," Peker said, adding that the court and the government should help them. He said that what's happening now at IPI's project is they're only doing cleaning and security work. He said the rainy season is coming and they are trying to prepare the building for that.

Patrick Hsieh, a Taiwanese carpenter, said all they want is to get paid for their work. Hsieh said they want Manglona to release at least one of IPI's bank accounts so the workers will get paid regularly and finish the project. Hsieh said some of the Taiwanese workers are leaving the CNMI because of this situation.

Corrado Modica, an Italian, said there are 30 Italian workers at IPI and that they are upset because although

IPI gave them the two paychecks they could not get cash because IPI's bank accounts are frozen. Modica said their families back home are waiting for the money.

"We need assistance from the government here. Just somebody should take action and help us. Because we're far away from our families," he said.

Modica said they feel sad because they never had problems with IPI since they came a year ago.

Bat-Ochir, a Mongolian, said the only reason why they are protesting is they cannot get paid because IPI's bank accounts have been frozen. "What we're asking is for the court to help us. Because we are working. The workers need to get paid. In order to get paid, we need IPI bank accounts to be unfrozen," said Bat-Ochir through an interpreter.

Bat-Ochir said there are 140 Mongolian workers at IPI. He said they don't want to be involved with the "clash" between IPI and its contractor. "Because the workers are not getting paid, they can't buy their food. ... Now we don't have anything left," Ochir said.

He said the construction used to go fast but has now slowed down. "We're not blaming the previous contractor or the court, we're just asking for help that's going to be fair to everybody," he added.

IPI senior vice president for security and surveillance Donald Browne said they're protesting again primarily to get some help in opening up their payroll account so that their workers could be paid their wages. At this point, Browne said, they don't have a mechanism to get paid because IPI's payroll account is frozen.

on campus while others will receive instruction through remote learning. Pangelinan said the same goes for teachers and instructors—some will teach on site while others will teach online.

Pangelinan said school principals will help the PSS management team determine who among the students and teachers will be on site or online.

"Some of the factors to consider [is] who is at risk, who has pre-existing conditions, [and] who refuses to be on campus. There's a lot of apprehension in our community and there are going to be families and PSS staff that may not want to be on-site because of their concerns. We need to provide them alternatives," she said.

PSS is also considering a partial reopening of schools with students coming in staggered cohorts.

Pangelinan said if the community vulnerability level becomes Green, the entire student population, faculty, and staff members can return to their schools.

Pangelinan said the hybrid system and partial reopening of schools will take effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"There is still a threat of a resurgence of cases, so we need to put every precaution in place. We are going to go hybrid until we are absolutely sure that every child, every staff member, every teacher is safe," Pangelinan said.

Last April, Manglona ordered that for the lien amount of \$2.89 million U.S.A. Fanter shall have a mechanic's lien to attach upon the improvements of IPI's hotel-casino complex in Garapan.

Manglona ordered that U.S.A. Fanter shall also have a mechanic's lien to attach upon the real property interest of IPI in a 1.567 hectare lot in Garapan. The fee simple owner of the lot is the Commonwealth Investment Company LLC. IPI has a leasehold interest on this land.

Manglona made a probable cause

finding in favor of U.S.A. Fanter last March 27 for the issuance and attachment of a mechanic's lien.

U.S.A. Fanter is suing IPI for allegedly refusing to pay \$2,089,345 over landscaping improvements for IPI's hotel-casino project. U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay \$2.08 million in contract damages. The company also sought payment for interest and attorney's fees.

IPI, through counsel Joseph Horey, argued that U.S.A. Fanter has not complied with the mandatory mediation clause.

## CHECKS

From Page 1

remaining amount is for taxpayers that have had some issues in terms of their tax returns, or for those who needed to verify or confirm their dependents.

"We're releasing weekly once taxpayers' returns are rectified and cleared. We are releasing stimulus checks on a weekly basis, every Friday. Data is being uploaded and checks are printed on Friday afternoon and in the mail by Saturday morning," he said.

He also advised members of the community who have yet to receive their stimulus checks, or are having any issues related to it, to contact the Finance Department.

"If you have any issues, you have not received your stimulus checks or you feel there's an error in your stimulus checks, please contact [Revenue & Tax at 664-1067, 664-1000, or

664-1019], or you can email stimulus@dof.gov.mp and we will respond as soon as quickly as we can," he added.

People can also visit the Department of Finance's office at the Joeten-Dandan Building. They are open from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Stimulus checks provide up to \$1,200 for each eligible individual, \$2,400 for joint returns, and \$500 for each qualifying child.

As far as those hoping for a second batch of stimulus checks, Atalig said that that will be all up to the federal government.

"About a second stimulus, that is all up to the U.S. federal government, Congress, and the President should sign a new bill. We understand that there's a HEROES Act that was passed by the U.S. [House of Representatives] but it's in the Senate and, until we hear anything further, we're not planning on any second stimulus," Atalig said.

## FREE

From Page 1

home to practice social distancing," said Guerrero.

This comes soon after the CNMI government announced new quarantine procedures in the CNMI for passengers arriving from off-island.

Esther Muña, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer, added that the success of the community in complying with the health directives was one of the reasons why home quarantine was implemented.

"Everyone has really been doing a lot of personal responsibility to flatten the curve, so we are here because of our people," said Muña.

Muña added that one can still prevent COVID-19 infection in a small home by continuously practicing wearing a mask, wiping down everything, and doing as much social distancing as possible. She added that you won't only have to wear a mask outside but inside as well.

"For example, even if a household member gets the flu, you won't kick them out, you'd make that person wear a mask, and be able to function within the house," said Muña.

Additionally, there will be 40 passengers from last June 20 who will be getting tested for COVID-19 at Kanoa Resort today. These passengers will be getting tested via drive-thru.

## Penalties

A system has been put in place once the Saipan airport starts accepting in-

ternational flights.

"Upon arrival, we have the Sara Alert database, we have multiple layers and countermeasure to prevent slips," said Warren Villagomez, who heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

Villagomez said that passenger's health declaration gets captured, which will include one's full name. Then the passenger will move on to the geo-mapping, where a staff at the airport will pinpoint where a passenger's residence is.

"It's your word and data they [airport staff] are entering, but there're multiple ways that we're capturing information, so if you don't report, and we will send you a reminder, it's going to be a strict enforcement with the Department of Public Safety and other law enforcement agencies," said Villagomez.

To date, the CNMI has 30 confirmed cases, with one active case and two deaths.

## COVID-19 on Guam

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported one case that tested that positive for COVID-19 through Diagnostic Laboratory Services. The case reported no contact to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

According to the JIC, out of the 226 confirmed cases, 42 are military service members (35 of them have been recently identified among a unit deployed to Anderson Air Force Base) and 184 are civilians.

To date, Guam has a total of 226 confirmed cases, with five deaths, 174 released from isolation, and 47 active cases.

## PSS

From Page 1

According to Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, associate commissioner for Student and Support Services, PSS has different plans for each community vulnerability level that all require approval from the Board of Education before any of them can be implemented.

If community vulnerability remains at Level Blue, PSS' plan is to do a hybrid set up by mixing virtual learning with in-class instruction in the next school year.

Pangelinan explained there will be a certain number of students who will be



# WIA is awarded \$1.5M grant to offer temporary jobs

The CNMI Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency is one of 24 entities throughout the United States and its territories to be awarded funding for temporary employment opportunities to qualified participants through the COVID-19 Pandemic National Dislocated Worker Grant of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

The CNMI DOL-WIA was awarded \$1.5 million to assist eligible individuals with temporary employment that focus on pandemic disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, and other allowable functions that would help the CNMI respond

and recover from COVID-19. Training opportunities may also be available for those qualified and eligible individuals to transition between careers.

To qualify for the temporary employment opportunities, potential participants must register with DOL-WIA and be deemed eligible for services.

Eligibility is defined as:

■ Having been temporarily or permanently laid off as a consequence of COVID-19

■ Meet WIOA Dislocated Worker eligibility criteria

■ Be a long-term (at least six months) unemployed worker

■ Be a self-employed in-

dividual who became unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals will be assessed to see if they meet eligibility requirements.

The PNDWG was created to help address the workforce-related impacts of the coronavirus public health emergency to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said the Dislocated Worker Grants will help some unemployed U.S. eligible workers find new jobs by performing work that responds to the im-

pact of the virus in the CNMI.

"This grant is another option for U.S. eligible workers, who do not qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation and meet the qualifications for PNDWG, to earn income or learn a new skill during these challenging times. We continue to work hard to provide assistance as best we can," said Benavente.

Interested individuals are encouraged to register and apply for services by creating a username and password in the "Sign-In" section of the www.hiremarianas.com portal.

Note that registering and applying for this opportunity is completely separate and different from registering and applying for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance also found

on www.hiremarianas.com.

For more information, contact the CNMI DOL WIA Division at 664-1708/1757 or send inquiries to cnmidolwia@gmail.com. (PR)

## Theft at Navy Hill home

On Thursday, June 18, 2020, at about 1:31pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a theft incident at a private home on Navy Hill, Saipan.

According to a DPS statement about the incident, the police officers who were dispatched to the scene met with

the caller who stated that an individual walked around the victim's residence and climbed on the roof of the victim's home to pick mangoes from a tree. The suspect then put the fruits in his vehicle before returning to the property and looking around the victim's boat. The suspect then climbed onto the boat and

removed a Penn International 120 electric reel and placed it in his vehicle before leaving with a female passenger. The suspect's vehicle is described as a black Mazda3 sedan.

It was not clarified in the police statement how the victim knew what the thief did.

DPS would like to remind the public to be diligent when purchasing fishing and/or boat- ing equipment from unknown

individuals, or online. If you or someone you know has been approached recently by any individual offering to sell you a Penn International 120 electric reel, we encourage you to call 911 immediately, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (PR)

## Ride4Pride Marianas motorcade on Saturday

In celebration of Pride Month, Pride Marianas Youth, a grassroots organization of family members, friends, allies, and members of our LGBTQIA+ community, will have a "Ride 4 Pride Marianas" motorcade this Saturday, June 27, 2020.

The event is an opportunity for community members to show solidarity in support and honor of the LGBTQIA+ members.

While traditionally a parade, Pride Marianas Youth chose to promote Pride Month through a motorcade that will be escorted by the Department of Public Safety around the island. This motorcade is to also observe the social distancing guidelines of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

"Pride Month is a time to advance human rights and push for positive social change that embraces inclusion. The movement honors the countless battles that have paved the way for progress and advancement of freedom. Pride is also a time to acknowledge the tremendous work that is still left for us to do," said Dr. Bobby Cruz, one of the Pride Marianas Youth volunteers. "It presents an opportunity for more unity in the Marianas and for individuals to come together to support and love one another. It is a call to resist intolerance and discrimination and to create spaces for all individuals to thrive. Doing your part to increase awareness is important and has a mobilizing effect in helping to create braver, safer, and more inclusive spaces."

Registration for the Ride4Pride Marianas event is scheduled to begin at 12pm at

the Kan Pacific Pool in Marpi. Participants must check-in at the registration booth in order to participate. The Department of Public Safety will check for the driver's valid license, vehicle registration, and insurance. Participants will then be directed to drive and line up before the motorcade begins at 1pm.

Registered participants will be issued a map of the route and guidelines to follow prior to the start of the motorcade. Participants who do not follow the guidelines will be asked to leave

the event. Based on the route of the map, the motorcade is anticipated to last until 4pm. Carpools are also advised to prepare water and snacks. Participants can also leave at any time during the event.

Pride Marianas Youth is a grassroots organization of family members, friends, allies, and members of our LGBTQIA+ members based in the CNMI. Founded in 2019, Pride Marianas Youth has coordinated several LGBTQIA+ youth-focused activities, events, professional development training, workshops, webinars, awareness campaigns, and other advocacy

activities. Check out their Facebook page @pmy670 or Instagram @pridemarianasyouth

For more information on the Ride4Pride event, visit <http://bit.do/Ride4PrideRegistration2020>. (PR)

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**  
 Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.  
 P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
 Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962  
 E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com)  
 Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, July 01, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

#### AGENDA

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

1. Call to Order

3. Adoption of Agenda

2. Roll Call

4. Adoption of Minutes (April 20, 2020)

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

**III. CORRESPONDENCES**

**IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Financial Affairs Committee

3. Seaport Facilities Committee

2. Airport Facilities Committee

4. Personnel Affairs Committee

**V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Lease: United Cargo Facility

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Position replacement: Rota Flight Service

2. Sanction and Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Tower Renovations – A&E Amendment No. 1

3. Airline Incentive

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Due to COVID-19 measures on the limited number of attendees, public comments should be emailed to [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) or delivered to our office before the Board meeting. We will stream live on Facebook so "like" the Commonwealth Ports Authority page to view the coverage.*

Kimberlyn King-Hinds  
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

June 24, 2020

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

### INVITATION TO BID

## ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-015

**SUBMISSION DATE: April 22, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

### "Supply, Delivery & Installation of Aluminum Doors & Frames for the NAP Office, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 01, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, **NAP Office As Lito**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 8, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY, DPW

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER**  
DCCA, SECRETARY

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
**Office of the Executive Director**

### INVITATION FOR BID

## CUC-IFB-20-022

#### S-5 AND S-9 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing S-5 and S-9 sewer lift stations, including the renovation of the existing generator building and wet well with all new piping, fittings, pumps, generator, and other equipment and appurtenance. The project also includes the installation of a new S-5 forcemain and forcemain inlet structure, the relocation of the existing Hyatt Hotel sewer forcemain to an existing sewer manhole on Coral Tree Avenue, the installation of a new S-9 upstream sewer manhole and gravity main crossing route 308. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

**The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-022, S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) July 2, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 22, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer – [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator





From left, SROTC/Criminal Justice program coordinator Zerlyn Taimanao, Gavin Pangelinan, Dan Ryan Tumaquip, Bert Magallano, and interim Northern Marianas College president Frankie Eliptico.

# Seven students win scholarships through UOG ROTC

Three students transferring from Northern Marianas College to the University of Guam have been awarded scholarships that will fund the remainder or entirety of their four-year degree programs. The three from the CNMI are joined by four others in the UOG Army ROTC program who have also been awarded scholarships.

The scholarships pay either tuition or \$5,000 per semester toward room and board for the duration of each recipient’s degree. Each scholarship cadet is also authorized an ex-

tra \$1,200 per year to pay for books, and once the cadets finish their requirements for contracting, which includes passing a physical fitness test, they will receive a stipend of \$420 per month.

The students are:

■ Samde’lana Obina, UOG junior

■ Amos Dumapat, UOG junior

■ Enriqueo Nedlic, UOG sophomore

■ Gavin Whitt, incoming freshman from Simon Sanchez High School

■ Gavin Pangelinan, junior transferring from Northern Marianas College

■ Bert Gabriel Magallano, junior transferring from Northern Marianas College

■ Dan Ryan Tumaquip, junior transferring from Northern Marianas College

“I [am] lost for words...” Obina said. “I [see] it as a symbol of my hard work paying off. ...I hope to make significant contributions through service and commitment to my island and the United States.”

Whitt, who graduated in May from Simon Sanchez High School, was awarded the Maj. Henry San Nicolas Ofeciar ROTC Scholarship, which is provided by the board of regents to students enrolling in the ROTC program. The Ofeciar Scholarship pays for full tuition and \$250 for books each semester for four years. Whitt is also eligible for the \$420 per month stipend after successful completion of his freshman year. “I was inspired to be a part of the UOG Army ROTC program because I have a lot of

family members and mentors who were officers in the military and I always felt the need to contribute back to the island of Guam,” Whitt said. “...I am more than grateful to earn the scholarship and be a part of the UOG Army ROTC family.”

The other scholarships are funded by the U.S. Army Cadet Command through a campus-based board of ROTC cadre and UOG personnel. The students were selected based on their previous academic performance and their leadership and extracurricular activities, as well as an interview.

Lt. Col. Thomas Anderson, the director of the UOG and NMC ROTC programs, said more scholarship announcements are forthcoming as the applicants’ packets are processed.

High school students and current UOG and NMC students are eligible to apply for national ROTC scholarships to the University of Guam or the Northern Marianas College. High school students are encouraged to take either the SAT or ACT upon completion of their junior year and then submit their applications to the Army ROTC National Scholarship Board that occurs every October. Students who have already taken one semester of college do not need to submit ACT or SAT scores.

More information about the ROTC scholarship application process can be found by emailing John Howerton, the ROTC recruiting operations officer, at [jhowerton@triton.uog.edu](mailto:jhowerton@triton.uog.edu). (*UOG*)

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden A

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden A is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: July 02, 2020**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden C

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Globe Corporation dba Phoenix Garden C is proposing to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: July 02, 2020**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Shalom Church

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Shalom Church is proposing to occupy an existing building structure to operate a Church. This use is classified as “Church or Place of Worship Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: July 02, 2020**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Marked 4 Life Tattoo

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marked 4 Life Tattoo is proposing to operate its Personal Services within his residential home (Tattoo Parlor). This use is classified as “Personal Service” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 010 K 224 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: July 02, 2020**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for  
Pacific International Property Management LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Pacific International Property Management LLC is proposing to construct two structures for Residential Use (Multifamily or Apartment). This use is classified as “Residential Uses” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 006 B 11 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date: July 02, 2020**  
**Time: 5:00 pm**  
**Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan**

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, June 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:geri.delacruz@zoning.gov.mp). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Treasurer



## USACE Honolulu welcomes 72nd commander

**FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii**— The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District welcomed a new leadership today as Lt. Col. Eric S. Marshall assumes command from Lt. Col. Kathryn P. Sanborn during a modified change of command ceremony being held at Fort Shafter's Palm Circle Gazebo. Marshall, who most recently served as the deputy command-

er, 130<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, is the 72nd commander in the District's 115 year history. Marshall will oversee a 300-plus person workforce of engineers, scientists, and support staff serving the Pacific Region, including Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Kwajalein. Honolulu District

is responsible for major military design and construction, civil works, international and interagency support, real estate services to the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, regulatory work, environmental services and emergency management.

Marshall holds a bachelor's degree in Physics from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a master's degree in Nuclear Engineering from the Massachusetts



Marshall

Institute of Technology. He was commissioned as an engineer in the U.S. Army 2002 and is a licensed Professional Engineer (Civil) and Project Manage-

ment Professional.

Traditionally, a unit's colors are passed during a change of command ceremony to represent the official transfer of leadership and responsibility from the outgoing command commander to the incoming commander. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the cer-

emony will be modified to adhere to current social distancing and limited personnel gathering protective measures.

Sanborn's next assignment is to attend the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. (*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Honolulu District Public Affairs*)

## YouTube channel to highlight the Marianas

Robert Arrington, who hosts the YouTube channel "Deer Meat for Dinner," returned to the Marianas this week for what he is touting as one of his best shows ever.

"Deer Meat for Dinner"

features hunting, fishing, diving, and cooking of wild game. After filming on Rota in 2018, Arrington has returned to create an extended series on the Marianas. The show has 2.3 million sub-

scribers, and its initial seven-part series on Rota has gained 13 million views.

"During Mr. Arrington's visit to the Marianas, he and his team will be traveling to the Northern Islands, Saipan, and Tinian, in an effort to further promote the richness,

pristine, and natural wonders our islands have to offer," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "As the Marianas looks forward to recovering from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, one of our main focus is to further promote ecotourism. Through this project, we will be able to showcase a variety of ecotourism activities to a wide audience."

"Deer Meat for Dinner" also has 82,000 Facebook followers, 113,000 Instagram followers, and 3,500 followers on Twitter.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres plans to accompany Arrington to the Northern Islands.

Originally scheduled to be in the Marianas for two weeks, the show recently announced its intention to extend production. (*MVA*)



Robert Arrington shows off his spearfishing catch on Rota in this file photo. Arrington's show, "Deer Meat for Dinner," returned to the Marianas on June 20, 2020, to film several shows on Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### AMENDMENT Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

Thursday, July 2, 2020 | 5:00 PM  
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center Building  
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)

#### AGENDA

**A. Preliminary Matters**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 02/25/2020 Zoning Board Meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

**B. Public Hearings:**

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0730:** Shalom Church proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Church establishment. This use is classified as "Church or Place of Worship" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. TR. 21859-3-1 in Fina Sisu village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5005:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden A proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 36 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2019-5007:** Global Corporation Phoenix Garden C proposes to occupy a pre-existing one-story structure for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 128 D 43 in Garapan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-1492:** Marked 4 Life Tattoo is proposing to occupy & operate its tattoo services. This use is classified as "Personal Services" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 010 K 224 in Dandan village. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-0720:** Pacific International Property Management LLC is proposing to construct two structures for Residential Use (Multifamily or Apartment). This use is classified as "Residential Uses" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 006 B 11 in As Matuis village. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

**C. Communication**

1. FY 2021 Budget
2. FY 2019 DRAFT Annual Report
3. Department Organizational and Functional Chart

**D. Old Business**

1. ITB 19-ZB-134 "Vehicle purchase for Enforcement & Operations"
2. Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Properties Maintenance Act of 2018 Regulations

**E. Executive (Closed) Session**

**F. New Business**

1. Election of Officers
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

**G. Miscellaneous**

1. Other Matters
2. Announcements
3. Next Meeting

**H. Adjournment**

NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
PHONE: 670.234.3878

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SHELTER WORKER (GUMA ESPERANSA)

(Temporary, 12 months)

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

**Job Summary:** The SHELTER WORKER will be employed by NMCADSV and report to Guma Esperansa, Karidat Social Services. Guma Esperansa is the shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI. Shelter workers provide a variety of direct shelter and advocacy services and related administrative tasks under the direct supervision of the Shelter Manager, including ensuring the safety of residents and other staff, assisting with schedules and transportation for clients, conduct intake assessments, participate in meetings and training, and other tasks as assigned. Please see the "Position Description" for a complete list of duties and responsibilities.

**Minimum Qualifications:** An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; an understanding of and agreement with the mission of Karidat Social Services; good verbal and written communication skills; and capacity for warmth and openness for working with people from varied backgrounds.

Applicants must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays to ensure appropriate coverage for Guma Esperansa, a 24-hour residential shelter. Also, applicants should have reliable transportation and a valid CNMI driver's license.

**Classification & Salary Range:** Full Time, Non-Exempt, \$16,500.00 per annum.

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at [info@endviolencenmi.org](mailto:info@endviolencenmi.org) or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook page.

**To Apply:** Submit the following on or before 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. Cover Letter
2. Karidat Application Form (available for download at NMCADSV Facebook Page or by email to [info@endviolencenmi.org](mailto:info@endviolencenmi.org))
3. Copy of Diploma or Degree
4. Copy of valid CNMI Driver's License
5. Copy of Police Clearance (obtained within the past 6 months)

**Applications can be submitted through:**

1. Email (with all attachments) to [info@endviolencenmi.org](mailto:info@endviolencenmi.org), OR
2. Mail hard-copy to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.), OR
3. Drop hard-copy to Karidat Social Services, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan (Formerly Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center).

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.  
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2019-WR-AX-0051. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## High court's ruling recognizing LGBTQ rights should extend across much more than the workplace

It's been a week since the Supreme Court handed down a powerful and important decision recognizing protections for the civil rights of Americans regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or other status not previously recognized. What we've seen in that week is commentary criticizing the decision and commentary supportive of it. But what has been lacking is a full assessment of the logic that powered the decision and will likely now drive other needed changes.

In *Bostock v. Clayton County*, Justice Neil Gorsuch—appointed by President Donald Trump—wrote the controlling opinion. It can be deceptively hard to boil down a complex legal opinion to a few words, but in essence here's the logic that led Gorsuch to his conclusion: A person's gender is intertwined in the issue of sexual orientation and identity.

For example, if a man is fired because he is interested in dating other men but a woman interested in dating men would not be, then the man in this example is being discriminated against because he's a man. Therefore, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, applies to a larger community than previously recognized.

The immediate implication of this is that employers can no longer legally discriminate against LGBTQ people in the workplace. That should be recognized for what it is, long-awaited progress that natural rights that should have always been protected now have the protection of law.

What's more, there are additional implications of this decision that will now either be implemented as a matter of policy or end up in cases before the courts. Most notably is a change—that will almost certainly be reversed—that the Trump administration made to undercut such rights just days before this ruling was issued. The administration changed a rule implemented in the last year of the Obama presidency that extended civil rights protections in health care for the LGBTQ community.

Essentially, the Obama rule said Title VII protections extend to LGBTQ people in government health programs and any health organization that accepts federal funds. The rule was designed to curb discrimination in decisions regarding providing care, and it's impossible now to see how the Trump administration can sustain its rollback of that rule. The Gorsuch opinion has stripped away even the technical legal arguments that had protected discrimination for too long, and we should all expect and demand that courts in the future recognized the logic and moral

See LGBTQ on Next Page



## How to fight election cyberattacks while protecting the health of voters during a pandemic

By **QUENTIN E. HODGSON** and **JENNIFER KAVANAGH**  
THE BALTIMORE SUN

State and local elections officials—nervously eyeing the fall for a potential second wave of COVID-19—are scrambling. With only five months before the presidential election, they are scouting larger polling places to enable social distancing and planning to mail and scan more absentee and mail-in ballots than ever.

But in addition to keeping poll workers and voters safe from viral transmission, there is a second major risk: how to keep the election itself secure from cyber threats.

During the recent months of the pandemic, U.S. adversaries have stepped up both cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns. The United States should expect them to also take advantage of the logistical challenges of voting in a COVID-19 world to redouble their efforts against elections.

Cyber threats to U.S. elections came into sharp relief in 2016, when Russia conducted operations to influence the electorate and infiltrate voting systems. In January 2017, the Department of Homeland Security declared elections to be “critical infrastructure” and embarked on an extensive cybersecurity support effort. It established, for example, the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center which provides elections officials with cybersecurity alerts, vulnerability assessments and response aid when experiencing a cyberattack.

Congress pitched in too, appropriating \$380 million under the Help America Vote Act, or HAVA, in 2018—about 40% of which states planned to spend on cybersecurity. This year Congress appropriated an additional \$425 million to states.

But now the pandemic has devastated state budgets. HAVA fund administrators at the federal Elections Assistance Commission felt compelled to issue guidance saying states can use these funds for health-related safety needs.

This was necessary and prudent; mitigating the health risks and reassuring anxious voters is paramount to ensuring a smooth running of the election in the fall. States are furiously rolling out new processes, scouting polling places that can accommodate social distancing and preparing for unprecedented volumes of absentee and mail-in ballots. Each of these moves is costly, how-

ever, and states must pursue all of them simultaneously. A recent Brennan Center report argues that states will need significantly more funding to prepare for the November election, noting for example that the federal grant would only cover roughly 10% of the estimated \$110 to \$124 million Georgia alone would need to spend between now and Election Day.

Meantime, the cyber threats to voting systems have not diminished; indeed they may be elevated as adversaries see an opportunity in the crisis. Even as they rush to buy high-speed optical ballot scanners and distribute vote-by-mail request forms, election officials must continue to safeguard their (old and new) IT infrastructure. Voter registration databases, electronic pollbooks used to check in voters, websites publishing vital information about changes to voting processes—all these need to be kept secure. States are likely to need yet more federal funding, particularly given that most states will have to balance their budgets even as tax revenues crater this year.

Other options are available to states—and all of them may be needed. The federal government, for instance, could offer assistance via Homeland Security's cybersecurity agency, which could corral resources and manpower from the Department of Defense (including the National Guard), FBI and the intelligence community.

Private companies—including Microsoft, Akamai and Cloudflare—provided free cybersecurity services to elections officials in the run-up to the 2018 midterm elections. They could renew that offer of help. Other private companies could add their support and provide software, hardware or other equipment needed to support safe polling places, efficient and secure remote voting options, and the public education campaigns needed to tell citizens about their voting options.

And finally, all citizens should figure out early on their voting options and make a plan for how they are going to vote. The integrity of our elections is central to the health of our democracy, no less so now that we also have to worry about the health of voters.

Quentin E. Hodgson (qhodgson@rand.org) is a senior researcher and Jennifer Kavanagh (kavanagh@rand.org) is a senior political scientist at the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corporation.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Bolton's new book places him squarely in political crosshairs from both sides

**T**he practice of top aides cashing in by disclosing details of their presidential bosses' inadequacies while they are still in office has been a common Washington phenomenon for more than four decades.

Jim Fallows had no sooner stopped writing presidential speeches for Jimmy Carter than he reported the president was such a micromanager he personally assigned use of the White House tennis courts. Press Secretary Scott McClellan said President George W. Bush was not "open and forthright" in selling the 2003 invasion of Iraq. George Stephanopoulos groused that Bill Clinton often spurned his obviously superior advice.

The disclosures were often more trivial than substantive. But that hardly makes the practice less detestable when authors claim, like former national security adviser John Bolton, that their higher purpose is to enlighten the public on the dangers of reelecting a president so inadequate as Donald Trump.

"I don't think he's fit for office," the former Trump adviser told ABC-TV's Martha Raddatz, in discussing his new tell-all, "The Room Where It Happened." "I don't think he has the competence to carry out the job." Such statements confirm that Bolton's desire to influence 2020 voters was one of his main goals in writing the memoir—along with cashing in.

"I think these are things the American people need to know about," he added.

In a sense, Trump confirmed Bolton's conclusion about his own unfitness by hiring someone whose views differed so much from his own positive attitude toward Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the prospect for North Korean nuclear disarmament. An eventual rift was inevitable, and Bolton was known to take detailed notes and write about his government jobs.

What gives Bolton's 592-page volume its essential credibility is that he provides anecdotal evidence that matches the earlier conclusions on Trump from such highly regarded former offi-

cials as Defense Secretary James Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Gen. James Allen, Trump's second White House chief of staff.

Among them:

■ Tillerson's oft-quoted description that Trump is an "(expletive) moron" is validated by notations Trump thought that Finland was part of Russia and didn't realize our closest global ally, the United Kingdom, is a nuclear power.

■ Suggestions Trump puts his family's reputation over the country's comes in his willingness to float a false story justifying Saudi Arabia's brutal murder of dissident Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi to deflect attention from reports his daughter Ivanka used her private email account while a top White House aide, akin to the Hillary Clinton misdeed he condemned in 2016 as almost a mortal sin.

■ Bolton confirms details of Trump's "perfect" phone call with Ukraine's president in which Trump threatened to withhold U.S. aid to pressure the Ukrainian leader to investigate Joe Biden. Bolton notes the president made an even more blatant plea for help for his 2020 reelection campaign from China's Xi.

It's part of a pattern. A bipartisan Senate committee report concluded Russia helped Trump in 2016. And Trump told ABC's Stephanopoulos in 2019 "I think I'd take" campaign aid from a foreign government, likening it to domestic "oppo research."

Bolton's book and especially its timing have placed the veteran diplomatic official squarely in the political crossfire from both sides.

The Trump White House launched a belated legal action to squash publication on grounds Bolton was violating national security. But Bolton said the real reason was "He didn't want the book to be published before the election."

Meanwhile, Democrats groused about Bolton's disinterest in testifying during last fall's House's impeachment hearings, which he readily could have done, while saying he would respect a Senate subpoena that was far less likely.

By **CARL P. LEUBSDORF**

The Dallas Morning News

*Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at: carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.*



Bolton argues that House Democrats committed "impeachment malpractice" by not broadening their probe from Ukraine. But he conceded to Raddatz, "I think now this is actually a better time to tell the story. Because now the American people can look at it in the context of the most important political decision we make as a nation every four years."

It's unclear if the veteran GOP diplomat will pay any personal price for turning on his boss. That may depend on whether Trump wins in November.

While rejecting the administration's effort to block publication, U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth said Bolton "has gambled with the national security of the United States ... (and) has exposed his country to harm and himself to civil (and potentially criminal) liability." Trump has threatened to prosecute Bolton, and he could lose his \$2 million advance plus sales profits.

McClellan, the ex-Bush press secretary, never held another fulltime Washington job and relied on consulting contracts and paid speeches in the years after writing "Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception." Since 2012, he has been vice president for communications at Seattle University, in Washington state.

Stephanopoulos, however, landed a lush television contract with ABC News. More than two decades later, it continues to pay him \$14 million annually.

## Good news: You can be a mask skeptic and still wear one to prevent COVID-19 spread

**W**hen it comes to wearing masks, public health officials, politicians and even some members of the media have gone out of their way to undermine their credibility.

The nation's top health experts eschewed public use of masks for weeks—for mostly political reasons—until they changed their minds.

Political leaders have made a habit out of shaming and scolding constituents who dare to stroll quietly and unmasked on beaches or in parks. But they've praised and even encouraged throngs of protesters, however justified, packing streets, many not distancing or wearing masks.

And more than a handful of journalists have blatantly failed to follow the same public health guidelines—distancing, wearing a mask and quarantining—that they frequently mock the public for violating.

Politics aside, several early studies, including the only clinical

research that measured the utility of masks in hospital settings, suggest their benefit is marginal at best.

So, if you're a mask skeptic, no one should blame you. Or shame you. Masks are not a symbol of virtue.

But the pandemic is far from over. And as we learn more about how to fight it, we're all going to have to be flexible and humble.

And that probably means wearing a mask in public for at least the near future.

Texas, which was spared the worst of the virus early on, is one of at least 21 states that are now seeing a sustained increase in COVID-19 cases.

That's not unexpected. A rise in cases was inevitable as the state reopened and human behaviors normalized.

But more than just an increase in cases, Texas is experiencing an increase in the number of virus-related hospitalizations.

Since reliable antiviral medications are still undergoing trials, a vaccine is yet a distant possibility, and a second shutdown should be out of the question, we need targeted policies based on the best information available.

That means looking at what mitigation measures have been most effective.

To that end, several new studies show an apparent decline in transmission, sometimes dramatically, in places where mask policies are mandatory or mask wearing is near universal.

What's different about these studies is that they aren't models or projections, but a look at how masks may have been part of the solution to slowing transmission.

A (yet-to-be peer-reviewed) study published last week on the effects of mask-wearing mandates in 15 states and Washington, D.C., estimates that some 230,000-450,000 cases were possibly averted by May 22.

Another study led by a scientist from Texas A&M examined trends and mitigation procedures in China, Italy and New York

By **CYNTHIA M. ALLEN**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

*Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.*



City. It estimated that face coverings reduced infections by more than 78,000 in Italy from April 6-May 9 and by over 66,000 in New York City from April 17-May 9.

The researchers postulate that masks not only reduce the likelihood of an infected person spreading the virus but also the chance of an uninfected person contracting the virus.

That last part may be aspirational—masks are generally found to be a means for reducing spread, not preventing infection.

But however it happens, the finding that masks probably decrease transmission should make the chore of donning a face covering a little less onerous.

To be sure, no study worth its salt claims that face coverings are effective unless used properly (easier said than done) and practiced in concert with other mitigation measures.

Masks are a tool, not a strategy. And they are far from foolproof.

But if a critical mass of people are avoiding crowds of strangers, social distancing and wearing masks, there's a good chance that fewer people get sick.

And there's a good chance life gets close to normal much faster.

At this point, we should be willing to give masks a college try. Because you can be a mask skeptic and still wear one. And it isn't too late to start.

### LGBTQ

From Page 8

power of that opinion in protecting these rights.

The vulnerability to these rights, of course, is that Supreme Court's ruling recognizes a statutory right, not a constitutional one. Title VII is a law passed by Congress and therefore could be revised by Congress. So if the administration wants to persist in its intent to discriminate, it could try getting a new law through Congress. We doubt such an effort could succeed, but everyone who believes in the protection of individual rights should be prepared to fight any such discriminatory effort until it is soundly defeated.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	78°	89°	78°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:01 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The trade-wind disturbance that brought scattered showers to Guam and Rota overnight is moving away to the west, and radar shows decreasing showers to the east. Moderate trade winds continue across the Marianas, with combined seas of 4 to 6 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	9:16 AM	10:22 PM	-
Friday	10:14 AM	11:09 PM	-
Saturday	11:11 AM	11:53 PM	-
Sunday	12:08 PM	-	-
Monday	-	12:36 AM	1:04 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 55°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	88° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Sunny	88° / 66°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	88° / 82°	
New York	Showers	84° / 70°	
Osaka	Thunderstorm	84° / 75°	
Paris	Sunny	91° / 70°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
Rome	Sunny	88° / 64°	
Salem	Thunderstorm	79° / 68°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	82° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:54 AM	LOW TIDE	1.48	
9:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.98	
4:48 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.12	
-	-	-	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# Business

The word “unique” in its name pretty much sums up Unique Saipan’s specialty items that are one-of-a-kind. The shop sells random items that can be used at home, work, play, and as gifts. Unique Saipan is one of the small businesses on island that will bravely open on July 15 despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Unique Saipan is a shop that brings modern design furniture, the newest technology, many indoor cre-

ative decors, and sports equipment to Saipan. Our shop is not tailored to one theme only as we have various products like sofas, zodiac mugs, Bluetooth speakers, phone cases, toys for children, and even fitness and sports equipment like kayaks and yard basketball courts,” said shop manager Jay Li.

“We cater to local residents who want to find something that is unique and not sold in the numbers. Just unique pieces that are not available anywhere on island. People who love to shop for unique items can visit our shop and see our interesting items,” Li added.

In terms of affordability, Li said that she is confident that

For more information or to pre-order, call (670) 989-5020 and (670) 783-5021



A Bumblebee Bluetooth speaker for only \$49.99 and other unique items will soon be available at Unique Saipan located at Susupe (next to Saipan World Resort) when it opens on July 15.

## UNIQUE SAIPAN: A shop that surprises

their pricing is reasonable. “Our items come from U.S. mainland and China... we have an ongoing promo for customers who will get a discount whenever they purchase

an item in the store.” “Accessibility is also one of our key points as we are located just next to Saipan World Resort where the old Naked Fish Restaurant was along

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

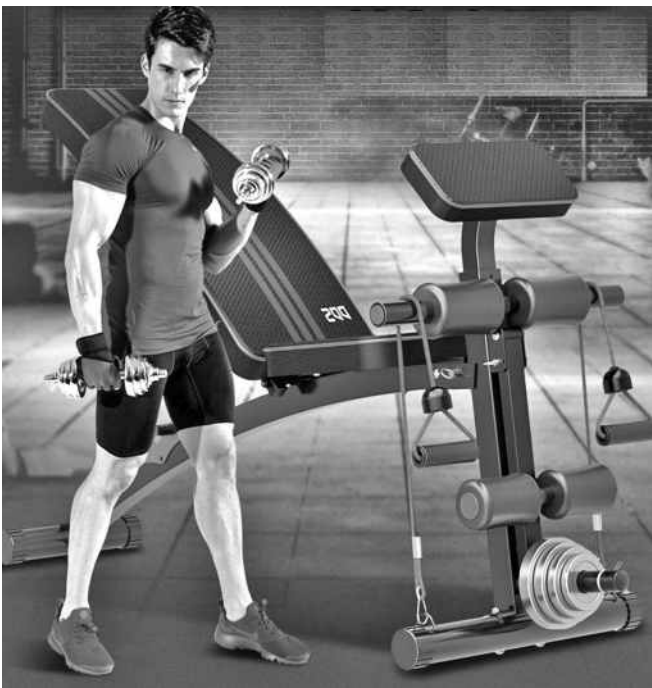
Beach Road in Susupe. People can purchase items available at the store and since we have yet to open next month, they can pre-order from us,” Li said.

“More specialty items are on the way and the community can get updated through our Facebook page. We look forward to bringing in more unique items to the CNMI for the rest of the year,” Li added.

For more information or to pre-order, call (670) 989-5020 and (670) 783-5021 or visit their Facebook: Unique Saipan.



Folded sofa is for sale for only \$129.99 at Unique Saipan.



Fitness equipment at Unique Saipan costs only \$69.99.

## Baptists and Walmart criticize rebel-themed Mississippi flag

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—The Confederate-themed Mississippi flag drew opposition Tuesday from two big forces in the culturally conservative state: Southern Baptists and Walmart.

Walmart said it will stop displaying the Mississippi flag while the state debates whether to change the design. The Mississippi Baptist Convention said lawmakers have a moral obligation to remove the Confederate battle emblem from the state flag because many people are “hurt and shamed” by it.

“We believe it’s the right thing to do, and is consistent with Walmart’s position to not sell merchandise with the confederate flag from stores and online sites, as part of our commitment to provide a welcoming and inclusive experience for all of our customers

in the communities we serve,” company spokesperson Anne Hatfield said.

The announcements increase pressure for change in a state that is slow to embrace it. Protests against racial injustice across the U.S. are focusing new attention on Confederate symbols.

Mississippi has the last state flag that includes the Confederate battle emblem: a red field topped by a blue X with 13 white stars. The NCAA, the Southeastern Conference, prominent business organizations and other religious groups have already called for the state to adopt a more inclusive banner.

The conservative-leaning and majority-white Mississippi Baptist Convention has more than 500,000 members at more than 2,100 churches. Missis-

sippi’s population is about 3 million, and 38% of residents are African American.

“While some may see the current flag as a celebration of heritage, a significant portion of our state sees it as a relic of racism and a symbol of hatred,” the Baptist group said in a statement. “The racial overtones of this flag’s appearance make this discussion a moral issue.”

White supremacists in the Mississippi Legislature embedded the symbol in the upper left corner of the state flag in 1894, amid backlash to political power that African Americans gained during Reconstruction.

During a 2001 state election, voters chose to keep the design. Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has said that if the flag is going to be changed, it should be done by another statewide election.

## Extradition hearings for Huawei CFO to run into next year

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—The British Columbia Supreme Court on Tuesday approved a schedule for the U.S. extradition case against a senior Huawei executive that would see hearings run into next year.

Meng Wanzhou, the chief financial officer of Huawei and daughter of the company’s founder, was arrested by Canadian authorities at Vancouver’s airport in late 2018. The U.S. wants her extradited to face fraud charges, and her arrest infuriated Beijing.

In a letter to Associate Chief Justice Heather Holmes, Prosecutor John Gibb-Carsley said the schedule aims to resolve all necessary evidence issues through the summer and early fall, with final arguments taking

place in early 2021. Holmes gave her OK to the proposal, which was agreed to by Meng’s lawyers, during a case management conference Tuesday.

Meng is facing fraud charges in the United States but denies the allegations that she misrepresented the company’s relationship with Skycom Tech, putting the HSBC banking company at risk of violating sanctions in Iran.

Hearings in the extradition case have been adjourned until Aug. 17, when the court will meet again for five days to hear arguments over privilege claims in the case.

Meng’s lawyers plan to argue she was subject to an abuse of process when she was arrested in Vancouver’s airport Dec. 1, 2018. A final hearing

on that argument is scheduled over three weeks starting Feb. 16, 2021.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies. Some analysts say Chinese companies have flouted international rules and norms amid allegations of technology theft.

In what is widely believed to be an attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng, China arrested former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor and charged them with spying.

Meng is free on bail living in her Vancouver mansion. Kovrig and Spavor are jailed, and Canadian diplomats have been refused consular access to them since January.



### LEADING INDICATORS

S&P  
3,117.75  
-0.75  
-0.02%

DOW  
26,019.00  
-1.00  
-0.00%

NASDAQ  
10,215.00  
+19.00  
+0.19%

In U.S. dollar terms

### EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar  
British Pound  
Canadian Dollar  
Chinese Yuan  
Euro

1.44  
0.80  
1.35  
6.96  
0.88

Hong Kong Dollar  
Indian Rupee  
Japanese Yen  
Malaysian Ringgit  
New Zealand Dollar  
Philippine Peso

7.75  
75.14  
106.61  
4.23  
1.55  
49.04

Russian Ruble  
Singapore Dollar  
South Korean Won  
Swiss Franc  
Taiwan Dollar  
Thailand Baht

67.88  
1.39  
1,174.18  
0.94  
28.96  
30.86



# Nation

## Crowds mourn Rayshard Brooks at storied Atlanta church

ATLANTA (AP)—Scores of mourners Tuesday paid their final respects to Rayshard Brooks at the Atlanta church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. used to preach, taking part in a funeral filled with historical echoes and a tragic sense that Black America has been through this all too many times before.

“Rayshard Brooks is the latest high-profile casualty in the struggle for justice and a battle for the soul of America. This is about him, but it is so much bigger than him,” the Rev. Raphael Warnock, senior pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, told the crowd, less than two weeks after the Black man was shot twice in the back by a white Atlanta police officer following a struggle in a fast-food parking lot.

Warnock recited a long list of names of Black people who died at the hands of police in recent years, including Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Philando Castile and George Floyd, lamenting: “Sadly we’ve gotten too much practice at this.”

Brooks’ widow, Tomika Miller, dressed in white, sat surrounded by family and friends. Former state lawmaker Stacey Abrams and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, both of whom have been mentioned as potential running mates for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, were among the mourners.

Most people dressed all in white, while some wore T-shirts with Brooks’ pic-



The body of Rayshard Brooks arrives for his funeral at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Tuesday, June 23, 2020, in Atlanta. AP

city that is supposed to be ‘too busy to hate.’”

King, who was a child when her father was assassinated in 1968, told the mourners she was at the church for “what feels like an all-too-familiar moment.” She noted that Brooks’ death took place on the same date that NAACP leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in Mississippi in 1963 and Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison in South Africa in 1964.

But in a powerful echo of her father’s “I Have a Dream” speech, she declared: “Rayshard Brooks’ death will not be in vain because justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

ture. Nearly everyone wore masks to protect against the coronavirus.

Brooks’ killing June 12 came amid weeks of turbulent and sometimes violent protests across the U.S. over Floyd’s death under a white Minneapolis officer’s knee on May 25. In the aftermath of Brooks’ death, the Atlanta police chief resigned, and protesters burned the Wendy’s restaurant.

As the funeral was underway, authorities announced the arrest of a suspect in the fire, 29-year-old Natalie White—according to her

lawyer, the same woman Brooks described to police on the night he was shot as his girlfriend.

The lawyer, Drew Findling, said White was distraught over Brooks’ death but was “absolutely not responsible for the fire,” saying the blaze was already underway when she was seen on video approaching the restaurant.

White has been charged with first-degree arson, according to online jail records.

The deaths of Floyd and Brooks have led to a groundswell of protests against racial inequality, a movement

to take down Confederate statues and other symbols, and demands for the dismantling of police departments or the shifting of their funding toward social services.

“We are here because individuals continue to hide behind badges and trainings and policies and procedures rather than regarding the humanity of others in general and Black lives specifically,” the Rev. Bernice King, the civil rights leader’s daughter, told the crowd at the funeral.

She noted ruefully that the killing took place in Atlanta, the “Black mecca” and “the

## Charleston votes to remove statue of slavery advocate

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—Officials in the historic South Carolina city of Charleston voted unanimously Tuesday to remove a statue of former vice president and slavery advocate John C. Calhoun from a downtown square, the latest in a wave of actions arising from protests against racism and police brutality against African Americans.

Council members approved the measure 13-0 at a late-day meeting. The resolution authorizes the removal of the statue of the former U.S. vice president and senator from South Carolina from atop a 100-foot (30-meter) monument in downtown Marion Square.

City officials said eventually that the Calhoun statue will be placed permanently at “an appropriate site where it will be protected and preserved.”

The vote comes a week after the mayor, John Tecklenburg, announced he would send the

resolution to the City Council. He also took part in the vote.

“I believe that we are setting a new chapter, a more equitable chapter, in our city’s history,” Tecklenburg said, just before the vote. “We are making the right step. It’s just simply the right thing for us to do.”

Council members heard from dozens of residents for and against the statue’s removal. Councilman Karl L. Brady Jr. said he knew his support may cost him votes but that he was voting his conscience in a move he said shows that, in Charleston, “we place white supremacy and white supremacist thought back where it belongs - on the ash heap of history.”

The move comes days after the fifth anniversary of the slaying of nine Black parishioners in a racist attack at a downtown Charleston church. It also comes as cities around the U.S. debate

the removal of monuments to Confederate leaders and others after the policy custody death of a Black man, George Floyd, in Minnesota.

The ultimate resting place of the statue has yet to be determined, a decision that will be left up to a special panel. The mayor has anticipated it would go to a local museum or educational institution.

Last Wednesday when Tecklenburg announced his plans to remove the statue, dozens of protesters linked arms around the monument, shouting, “Take it down!” Video posted on Twitter also showed signs and spray-painting on the monument. Police said they made several arrests for vandalism and ultimately closed off the area overnight.

In the heart of downtown Charleston, Calhoun towers over a sprawling square frequented by locals and tourists alike that is a frequent venue

for festivals and large public events. Several organizers have said recently that they would no longer use the space while the statue remained.

About 40% of enslaved Africans brought to North America came through the port city of Charleston, which formally apologized in 2018 for its role in the slave trade. In its resolution, the city says the statue, in place since 1898, “is seen by many people as something other than a memorial to the accomplishments of a South Carolina native, but rather a symbol glorifying slavery and as such, a painful reminder of the history of slavery in Charleston.”

Calhoun’s support of slavery never wavered. He said in several speeches on the U.S. Senate floor in the 1830s that slaves in the South were better off than free Blacks in the North while calling slavery a “positive good.”

## Minneapolis police chief says Floyd’s death was ‘murder’

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minneapolis’ police chief says the death of George Floyd was “murder” and that the officer who pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck knew what he was doing because he had taken specific training on the dangers of positional asphyxiation.

It appears to be the first time Chief Medaria Arradondo has used the word “murder” to describe the death. Floyd, a Black handcuffed man, died May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white officer, pressed his knee into his neck for nearly 8 minutes and held it there even after Floyd said he couldn’t breathe and stopped moving.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. Three other officers—J. Kueng, Tou Thao and Thomas Lane—are charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter.

All four officers were fired. In response to questions and a data request from the Star Tribune, Arradondo issued a statement Monday night saying: “Mr. George Floyd’s tragic death was not due to a lack of training—the training was there. Chauvin knew what he was doing.”

Arradondo went on to say: “The officers knew what was happening—one intentionally caused it and the others

failed to prevent it. This was murder—it wasn’t a lack of training.”

Attorneys for Chauvin, Thao and Kueng had no comment. A message left for Lane’s attorney wasn’t immediately returned to The Associated Press.

Arradondo said in his statement, first reported by the Star Tribune and also provided to the AP, that both Chauvin and Thao took training on the dangers of positional asphyxiation in 2014. The training, which covered how to get an arrestee from a prone position into a recovery or seated position, was required after a 2013 settlement with the family of David Cornelius Smith, a handcuffed Black man who died in 2010 after police pinned him face down.

Arradondo said the department also changed its policy in June 2014 to explicitly require moving an arrestee from a prone position to a recovery position when the highest degree of restraint is used, and to require continuous monitoring of the person’s condition.

He also said trainees continue to discuss the risks of in-custody deaths, and there’s “simply no way that any competent officer” would be unaware of the need to move an arrestee so he or she can breathe freely.



# Asia

## North Korea: Kim suspended military retaliation vs South

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea said Wednesday leader Kim Jong Un suspended a planned military retaliation against South Korea, possibly slowing the pressure campaign it has waged against its rival amid stalled nuclear negotiations with the Trump administration.

Last week, the North had declared relations with the South as fully ruptured, destroyed an inter-Korean liaison office in its territory and threatened unspecified military action to censure Seoul for a lack of progress in bilateral cooperation and for activists floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

Analysts say North Korea, after weeks deliberately raising tensions, may be pulling away just enough to make room for South Korean concessions.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim presided by video conference over a meeting Tuesday of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Military Commission, which decided to postpone plans for military action against the South brought up by the North's military leaders.

KCNA didn't specify why the decision was made. It said other discussions included bolstering the country's "war deterrent."

Yoh Sang-key, spokesman of South Korea's Unification Ministry, said Seoul was "closely reviewing" the North's report but didn't further elaborate.

Yoh also said it was the first report in state media of Kim holding a video conferencing meeting, but he didn't provide a specific answer when asked whether that would have some-

thing to do with the coronavirus.

The North says there hasn't been a single COVID-19 case on its territory, but the claim is questioned by outside experts.

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said it's likely that the North is waiting for further action from the South to salvage ties from what it sees as a position of strength, rather than softening its stance on its rival.

"What's clear is that the North said (the military action) was postponed, not canceled," said Kim, a former South Korean military official who participated in inter-Korean military negotiations.

Other experts say the North would be seeking something major from the South, possibly a commitment to resume operations at a shuttered joint factory park in Kaesong, which was where the liaison office was located, or restart South Korean tours to the North's Diamond Mountain resort. Those steps are prohibited by the international sanctions against the North over its nuclear weapons program.

The public face of the North's recent bashing of the South has been Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, who has been confirmed as his top official on inter-Korean affairs. Issuing harsh statements through state media, she had said the North's demolishing of the liaison office would be just the first in a series of retaliatory action against the "enemy" South and that she would leave it to the North's military to come up with the next steps.

The General Staff of the North's military has said it

would send troops to the mothballed inter-Korean co-operation sites in Kaesong and Diamond Mountain and restart military drills in frontline areas. Such steps would nullify a set of deals the Koreans reached during a flurry of diplomacy in 2018 that prohibited them from taking hostile action against each other.

Also condemning the South over North Korean refugees floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border, the North said Monday it printed 12 million of its own propaganda leaflets to be dropped over the South in what would be its largest ever anti-Seoul leafletting campaign.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Kim's decision to hold back military action would affect the country's plans for leafletting. The North's military had said it would open border areas on land and sea and provide protection for civilians involved in the leafletting campaigns.

The North has a history of dialing up pressure against the South when it fails to get what it wants from the United States. The North's recent steps came after months of frustration over Seoul's unwillingness to defy U.S.-led sanctions and restart the inter-Korean economic projects that would breathe life into its broken economy.

Nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington largely stalled after Kim's second summit with President Donald Trump last year in Vietnam, where the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

## China, India agree to disengage forces after deadly clash

**BEIJING (AP)**—Chinese and Indian military commanders have agreed to disengage their forces in a disputed area of the Himalayas following a clash that left at least 20 soldiers dead, both countries said Tuesday.

The commanders reached the agreement Monday in their first meeting since the June 15 confrontation, the countries said.

The confrontation in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier, was the deadliest between the two countries in 45 years.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said "the two sides had a frank and in-depth exchange of views on the prominent issues in the cur-

rent border control and agreed to take necessary measures to cool down the situation."

The Indian army said in a statement that "commander-level talks ... were held at Moldo in (a) cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere. There was mutual consensus to disengage."

Zhao denied apparent speculation by an Indian government minister that 40 Chinese troops had died in the June 15 clash.

"I can tell you responsibly that it is false information," he said at a daily briefing.

India has said that 20 of its soldiers died. China has not released any information on casualties on its side.

Soldiers brawled with clubs,

rocks and their fists in the thin air at 4,270 meters (14,000 feet) above sea level, but no shots were fired, Indian officials have said. The soldiers carry firearms but are not allowed to use them under a previous agreement in the border dispute.

Indian security officials have said the fatalities were caused by severe injuries and exposure to subfreezing temperatures.

The valley falls within a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer (2,100-mile) Line of Actual Control—the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

# World

## WITHOUT DEAL TO USE IT IF IT WORKS Brazil tests COVID shot

**SAO PAULO (AP)**—Brazil is testing an experimental coronavirus vaccine, but interim Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello acknowledged Tuesday that the government has yet to strike a deal to get it if it works. Other nations have already secured hundreds of millions of doses of the shot created by Oxford University.

The country's pandemic response has faced criticism since March, when President Jair Bolsonaro started defying social distancing recommendations. Hours before Brazil's health minister spoke at congress, a judge ordered Bolsonaro to wear a face mask whenever he is outdoors in the capital of Brasilia.

Pazuello, an army general who made his career in logistics, discussed Brazil's efforts to buy a vaccine for the virus or acquire the technology to make it. The country's health regulator, Anvisa, approved human clinical trials for the potential vaccine this month.

Pazuello said a decision on

a deal for Brazil to acquire the planned vaccine is expected by the end of the week, but will depend on the government's chief of staff.

British researchers started testing the experimental shot in May aiming to immunize more than 10,000 people, including older people and children. The vaccine is one of about a dozen in early stages of human testing.

Brazil, where coronavirus infections are still on the rise, is the only country other than the United Kingdom testing the Oxford vaccine. The country counts more than 1 million confirmed cases and more than 52,600 fatalities.

Clinical trials began in Sao Paulo on Monday and will start in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday. The British Embassy says 5,000 health professionals are being vaccinated.

"We are working directly with the three most promising" vaccines, Pazuello said, naming the Oxford shot, a vaccine under development

by American company Moderna and one of the Chinese experiments, which he did not disclose.

Vijay Rangarajan, the British ambassador to Brazil, told The Associated Press he hopes Brazil will "be one of the first countries to receive the vaccine" if it works.

"However, that will depend on when the country will sign the agreement," he said by e-mail. "There is already production capacity for the vaccine of 2 billion doses worldwide. But much of the global production is already purchased."

On May 21, the United States announced a deal for at least 300 million doses of the Oxford shot, and committed up to \$1.2 billion to the effort. On June 13, pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca agreed to supply up to 400 million doses of the experimental vaccine to European Union nations. Other negotiations are ongoing with Russia and Japan, among other countries, the company's CEO said this month.

## †FRANCIS YOSHIDA

BORN ON: JULY 31, 1950 • CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON: JUNE 21, 2020



### He was survived by his:

- Wife:** Anne Marie Yoshida
- Daughters:** Lorraine Ngirairiki and children  
Ella Yoshida and children  
Elsa Yoshida and children
- Sons:** Frankie Yoshida  
Fonzie Yoshida
- Sisters:** †Helgah Sambal and children  
Liza Blesoch and children
- Brothers:** Davis Sambal and children  
Willy Yoshida and children  
Ngirabelau Sambal and children  
Harry Sambal and children  
Eisio Yoshida and children

Additionally, he was survived by numerous cousins, in-laws and other family members.

Friends and family are welcome to bid him farewell on Friday, June 26th from 8:00am – 9:00am at CHCC Chapel. Interment will follow immediately at Tanapag Public Cemetery where he will be laid to rest. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, we request that all people will wear face mask and observe social distancing.

Thank You,  
THE FAMILY



# Environment

The Internal Revenue Service has issued guidance to help developers take advantage of tax credits for carbon capture systems, and supporters say it could usher in a new era for the technology.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

## Fossil fuel's answer to climate change just got less expensive

By WILL WADE and BRIAN ECKHOUSE  
Bloomberg News

Carbon capture, the fossil-fuel industry's favorite weapon against climate change, has never really caught on because of the expense. That may be about to change. The Internal Revenue Service recently issued crucial guidance to help developers take advantage of tax credits for the systems, and supporters say it could usher in a new era for the controversial technology.

"It's the make-or-break financial element," said Peter Mandelstam, chief operating officer for Enchant Energy Corp., which is preparing to put in a carbon-capture system at a coal-fired power plant near Farmington, New Mexico. "The Enchant project only works if the tax credit is in place."

Thirteen commercial systems are operating in the U.S., with 30 more in development, according to the Carbon Capture Coalition. Developers include Occidental Petroleum Corp. and Starwood Energy Group Global. A similar tax credit jump-started the U.S. wind-power industry more than a decade ago, and supporters say the new IRS guidance may prove to be the missing piece of the financial

puzzle that will make capturing carbon economical.

Carbon capture systems put the "clean" in clean coal and can cut emissions at industrial sites like ethanol plants or cement factories. They trap carbon dioxide, which can then be stored underground or sold to drillers to help them pump oil and natural gas. Either way, carbon is kept out of the atmosphere where it causes global warming. Green groups say the technology extends America's reliance on fossil fuels and steers financing away from wind and solar, but many of them support the credits because it helps reach the ultimate goal — slowing climate change.

Enthusiasm appears to be growing. Norton Rose Fulbright, a law firm that specializes in project funding, held an online seminar last week about tax-equity for carbon capture, a financing arrangement that's common in renewable-energy projects. Organizers said they would've been happy with 150 registrants. Nearly 1,000 signed up, and 540 joined.

"The numbers say to me that the tax-equity market is looking for ways to diversify out of wind, solar and low-income housing," said Keith Martin, the firm's co-head of projects in the U.S.

Read More: Oil Crash Dims Glimmer of Promise in Green Carbon Push

Congress more than doubled the existing tax credit in 2018. The incentive provides \$50 for every met-

ric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> that's sequestered, or \$35 a ton for producing oil with the captured carbon. That was enough for developers to start hatching plans, but tax questions held up financing deals. The IRS issued proposed regulations for the so-called Section 45Q credit last month.

For developers, "this gets us a lot closer to getting deals done," said Himanshu Saxena, CEO of Starwood Energy, which is working with OGC Climate Investments to retool a natural-gas power plant. "Without this, we would've been very far from the goal-posts."

Oil companies, coal miners and utilities have talked for years about the promise of carbon capture without backing up the hype with action, and a potential revenue stream — selling the carbon dioxide to oil drillers — is less attractive due to the collapse in crude. But one advantage of the system is its ability to remove emissions from existing facilities, a possible selling point with so many Americans out of work.

Enchant Energy's plan to install a carbon-capture system in New Mexico may help save 450 jobs at the 847-megawatt San Juan power plant and the nearby mine that feeds it. The facility is slated to close in 2022 because its majority owner, the local utility, says it's no longer economical to operate and can't meet an emission cap established last year.

With the tax credit, Enchant Energy says it can solve both problems. The company has a deal to take over the generator for \$1. Its planned \$1.3 billion carbon-capture system will reduce emissions by as much as 90% and introduce a new revenue source by selling the CO<sub>2</sub>, according to Enchant's Mandelstam. The company is looking to complete financing this year and start construction in the second quarter of 2021, he said.

### Big Picture

But extending the life of fossil-fuel plants may not be the best long-term strategy, according to Mike Eisenfeld at the San Juan Citizens Alliance. He said he has doubts about whether the San Juan project will be able to trap all the emissions that Enchant claims it can and if the company will find a buyer for the electricity.

Eisenfeld said he's opposed to spending money to prop up coal plants when the funds could be directed to renewable energy.

"These subsidies are really misguided," he said. They don't "look at the big picture."

Carbon capture at U.S. power plants has a mixed record. The highest-profile project, Southern Co.'s Kemper plant in Mississippi, was once heralded as the future of clean coal. It was designed to turn the fuel into a gas, then burn the gas to produce power. But Southern pulled the plug in 2017 after construction is-

sues and equipment problems helped drive up costs to \$7.5 billion. Southern decided to run the plant on regular natural gas.

High costs have impeded projects in Europe, too, though there are signs of a possible breakthrough. Last month, oil giants Royal Dutch Shell Plc, Total SA and Equinor ASA said they were ready to go ahead with the transport and storage portion of Norway's plan for a full-scale carbon-capture chain. That would cost 6.9 billion kroner (\$744 million) in the first phase alone, but the government would shoulder most of the investment if Parliament gives its green light later this year.

U.S. supporters tout Petra Nova, a \$1 billion joint venture of NRG Energy Inc. and JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration Corp. The facility outside Houston went into service in late 2016, and captures CO<sub>2</sub> from burning coal and delivers the gas for oil production.

Oil companies like Occidental view the technology as a way to make operations more environmentally friendly. Occidental is co-developing a system at a White Energy Co. ethanol plant in Texas.

"We know there's a growing emissions problem," said Richard Jackson, president and general manager of the company's Oxy Low Carbon Ventures unit. "There's got to be a solution."



## Life & Style

# Trump's brother seeks to halt family tell-all book

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's brother is asking a New York City judge to prevent the president's niece from publishing a tell-all book, which is expected to be released later this month.

In court papers, Robert Trump's lawyers argue that Mary Trump and others had signed a settlement agreement in the late 1990s that included a confidentiality clause explicitly saying they would not "publish any account concerning the litigation or their relationship," unless they all agreed.

The settlement agreement related to the will of Donald

Trump's father, New York real estate developer Fred Trump.

"Confidentiality was at the essence of the settlement agreement," the court papers say.

Robert Trump argues the publication of the book is prohibited by the settlement agreement reached in 2001 and he never consented to it being published. Mary Trump is the daughter of Fred Trump Jr., the president's older brother, who died in 1981.

A description of the book—titled "Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man"—on Amazon

says it describes "a nightmare of traumas, destructive relationships, and a tragic combination of neglect and abuse."

"She explains how specific events and general family patterns created the damaged man who currently occupies the Oval Office, including the strange and harmful relationship between Fred Trump and his two oldest sons, Fred Jr.

and Donald," the online description says.

The motion seeks an injunction to prevent Mary Trump and the book's publisher, Simon & Schuster, from releasing it.

"President Trump and his siblings are seeking to suppress a book that will discuss matters of utmost public importance," attorney Theodore

Boutros Jr., a representative for Mary Trump, said in a statement. "They are pursuing this unlawful prior restraint because they do not want the American people to know the truth. The courts will not tolerate this brazen and baseless effort to squelch speech in violation of the First Amendment."

A Simon & Schuster official said in a statement he was

confident the attempt to block publication would fail.

"Mary Trump has written a compelling personal story of worldwide significance, and we look forward to helping her tell her story," said Adam Rothberg, spokesman for the publishing house.

The White House declined to comment Tuesday on the book or the legal motion.

## Headmaster apologizes to Black alumnus for racism at Eton

LONDON (AP)—The headmaster of the prestigious English private school Eton College has apologized to one of its first Black students for the racism he was subjected to during the 1960s.

Headmaster Simon Henderson said Tuesday he was "appalled" by the experience Nigerian writer Dillibe Onyeama had during his time at Eton. Onyeama told the BBC he was bullied daily during his four years at the boy's boarding school.

Fellow students asked if he had maggots in his hair, and he was accused of cheating when he did well academically, Onyeama said.

After Onyeama wrote a book in the 1970s about his Eton years, he was reportedly banned from visiting the school because of it.

Eton's numerous famous alumni include Britain's Prince William and Harry, as well as Prime Minister Boris

Johnson and more than a dozen of his predecessors.

When asked by the BBC about Onyeama, Henderson told the broadcaster that "significant strides" have been made at Eton since Onyeama's time but more needed to be done.

"As millions of people around the world rightly raise their voices in protest against racial discrimination and inequality, we have to have the institutional and personal humility to acknowledge that we still have more to do," the headmaster said. "We must all speak out and commit to doing better, permanently, and I am determined that we seize this moment as a catalyst for real and sustained change for the better."

Henderson also invited Onyeama to meet so he could apologize in person and on behalf of the school.

Onyeama, 69, is the author of several nonfiction books and novels

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—In a stunning decision that could test the legal framework of #MeToo cases, Pennsylvania's highest court will review the trial decision to let five other accusers testify at Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial in 2018, which ended with the longtime TV star's conviction.

Cosby, 82, has been imprisoned in suburban Philadelphia for nearly two years after a jury convicted him of drugging and sexually assaulting a woman at his home in 2004. He's serving a three- to 10-year sentence.

The Supreme Court has agreed to review two aspects of the case, including the judge's decision to let prosecutors call the other accusers to testify about long-ago encounters with the actor and comedian. Cosby's lawyers have long complained the testimony is remote and unreliable.

The court will also consider, as it weighs the scope of the evi-

dence allowed, whether the jury should have heard Cosby's own deposition testimony about getting quaaludes to give women in the past.

Secondly, the court will examine Cosby's argument that he had an agreement with a former prosecutor that he would never be charged in the case. Cosby has said he relied on the alleged promise before agreeing to give the deposition in trial accuser Andrea Constand's lawsuit.

Those issues have been at the heart of the case since Cosby was charged in December 2015, days before the 12-year statute of limitations expired.

Prosecutors in suburban Philadelphia had reopened the case that year after The Associated Press fought to unseal portions of Cosby's decade-old deposition in Constand's sex assault and defamation



Cosby

lawsuit. Cosby paid \$3.4 million to settle the lawsuit in 2006.

Cosby, in the deposition, acknowledged a string of extramarital relationships. He called them consensual, but many of the women say they

were drugged and molested.

Dozens came forward in the years that followed to accuse Cosby, long beloved as "America's Dad" because of his hit 1980s sitcom, of sexual misconduct. Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill allowed just one of them to testify at Cosby's first trial in 2017, which ended in a mistrial.

But a year later, after the #MeToo movement exploded in the wake of reporting on Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein and other powerful men, the judge allowed five other accusers to testify at the retrial. The jury convicted Cosby on all three felony sex-

assault counts.

Lawyer Brian W. Perry argued in the appeal that letting other accusers testify in #MeToo cases "flips constitutional jurisprudence on its head, and the 'presumption of guilt,' rather than the presumption of innocence, becomes the premise."

However, the judge said he found "striking similarities" in the women's descriptions of their encounters with Cosby, and said the testimony was therefore permissible to show evidence of a "signature crime."

"In each instance, (he) met a substantially younger woman, gained her trust, invited her to a place where he was alone with her, provided her with a drink or drug, and sexually assaulted her once she was rendered incapacitated," O'Neill wrote in a post-trial opinion. "These chilling similarities rendered (their) testimony admissible."

## Hair-trigger temper keeps mom walking on eggshells

DEAR ABBY: I have one child, a daughter, "Anna," I adopted at 19 months. She's 41 now and has two small children. She had a normal upbringing, although her father and I divorced when she was 9. She has chosen to not have a relationship with him as an adult. Anna has never married, nor has she been in a relationship for longer than four or five months. According to a few counselors I have seen, she has attachment disorder.

Anna is very difficult. She's mean, says hateful things and is an angry young woman. She takes no responsibility for any of her actions, and therefore cannot keep a job, friends, etc. for more than a few months. She is also extremely negative. If I try to say anything, she gets angry, starts cussing, yelling and slinging hate, and stops contacting me for weeks at a time.

We have nothing in common. We live in separate states, but I see her about a half-dozen times a year. When I do, I tiptoe around on eggshells because of her short fuse. Her attitude is starting to rub off on her boys.

This is not what I had envisioned all those years ago when I adopted her. I miss who I thought she would become. Is there anything I can do without completely alienating myself from my grandsons, which would break my heart?

TIPTOEING ON EGGSHELLS

DEAR TIPTOEING: I am sorry your adoption did not

turn out as you envisioned. Your daughter is clearly troubled, and it is not surprising that her attitude has begun to affect her boys. It is time you accept that, as much as you wish to, you cannot change another person, and there's nothing you can do to "fix" her.

You mentioned that you visit her every two months. Perhaps you should consider visiting fewer times than that. Ask if she would let the grandkids come and visit Grandma occasionally. However, if she isn't receptive, refusing to engage with her is the price you will have to pay for seeing them and trying to cement a relationship with them.

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a girl since high school. We were high school sweethearts, but now we are both 28. My girlfriend wants to get married and have kids, but I do not. I want to keep dating her. I am scared to break up with her because if I did, I wouldn't know what to do with my life. Should I change, or should she change?

STATUS QUO IN COLORADO

DEAR STATUS QUO: I hereby appoint you to be the designated changer. You have been so absorbed with this romance you never took the time to develop interests of your own.

At the age of 28, many women start thinking about marriage and children. Doing that is normal and rational.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



However, because you don't feel ready to make a lifetime commitment, you would be making a huge mistake to allow yourself to be pushed into it.

It is important that you learn who you are before you marry anyone. Accomplishing this is a process that takes time and a variety of experiences, and you should embark on that now. It would be unfair to continue dating her at this point because your paths are going to diverge as each of you learns to manage without leaning on the other.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.







# MLB tries again with short season, skewed rules

**NEW YORK** (AP)—So, where were we?

Mid-March, a spring training exhibition between the St. Louis Cardinals and Miami Marlins at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Florida. Even before the final out, both sides had gotten the official word: Major League Baseball was shutting down immediately because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It felt like the most meaningless baseball game in the history of the sport," Cardinals infielder Matt Carpenter said.

So now, they'll try again.

A skewed, 60-game schedule, rather than the full plate of 162, with opening day on July 23 or 24. A shortened, contorted season ordered by Commissioner Rob Manfred on Tuesday night after billionaire owners and multimillion-dollar players couldn't come to a new economic agreement against the backdrop of the virus outbreak.

"What happens when we all get it?" Milwaukee pitcher Brett Anderson tweeted this week.

From the start, a sprint to the finish. Got to come out strong. Remember last year: The Washington Nationals began 27-33 and wound up hoisting the World Series trophy.

Perhaps it's the perfect set-up for outsiders like the Padres or Mariners to sneak into the championship chase.

Let's not forget those Houston Astros, either. They were the biggest story in baseball when we last saw them, with fans taunting Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman and their accomplices following the trash can-banging, sign-stealing scandal that made national headlines over the winter.

Some things, chances are, won't change when the games resume.

No minor leagues this year, tough luck there. The majors, meanwhile, give new meaning to short-season ball.

## Oddballs

An automatic runner on second base to begin all extra innings. Designated hitters in NL games. Pitchers with their own personal rosin bags.

This season will look like no other in baseball history, the price for trying to play amid a pandemic.

"So long National League. It was fun while it lasted," Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright tweeted.

The extra-inning rule, that's bound to bring new strategy, different stats to dissect and an innovative twist on the old game. It'll be—aw, heck, who are we kidding? It will be major league baseball meets Central Park softball.

Just hoping that experiment



In this Oct. 11, 2019 file photo, St. Louis Cardinals' Matt Carpenter puts a late tag on Washington Nationals' Adam Eaton after his triple during the seventh inning of Game 1 of the National League Championship Series in St. Louis.

doesn't stick around in '21.

## Marking the moment

To date, Bruce Maxwell is the only major leaguer to take a knee during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" before a game. The backup Oakland catcher did that at the Coliseum in September 2017, following the lead of NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

Maxwell saw limited time with the A's in 2018, played in Mexico last year and doesn't have a job with a big league team this year.

Major leaguers have not, in general, been the first set of players in pro sports to speak out on issues of social injustice. We'll see what stances they take on and off the field when games return.

## Fly it high

OK, say Francisco Lindor helps Cleveland win a most elusive World Series title. Or Christian Yelich leads the Brewers to their first flag.

Fans will certainly argue: Is it a legitimate crown or more like a prize won during some European soccer tournament?

Kay Kenealy, a 59-year-old from Waukesha, Wisconsin, who has a 20-game ticket package to Brewers games, took a meaty swing at the debate.

"The season's the season. It's kind of like with the Bucks in the running for an NBA championship. A championship's a championship," she said. "If the season's a month long, you play for that month."

"Whether it be the Brewers or the A's or someone like that that wins the World Series, I

don't think that requires an asterisk. I think everybody for the next 100 years is going to know that this was a pandemic year."

## The big four-oh-oh

The huge stat question: Could someone hit .400 in this shortened season?

NL MVP Cody Bellinger got off to a scorching start last year, batting .376 after the Dodgers' 60th game. He finished at .305.

Chipper Jones was the most recent to top .400 through 60—he was at .409 in 2008. Larry Walker (.417) and Tony Gwynn (.403) both started fast in 1997, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

Fewer games, a lot of walks,

a couple of infield knocks, yep, it's possible. But there's a reason Ted Williams remains the last player to hit the hallowed mark in a full season, batting .406 in 1941 (always splendid, he was at .407 after 60).

Also a fact: No one would treat the achievement this year on a par with Ted.

## A can of corn

Shucks! Might not be a game in the "Field of Dreams" cornfield this summer. MLB did a great job building a diamond next to the movie site near Dyersville, Iowa, to host the Yankees and White Sox on Aug. 13, but fans can't come.

Also scrapped: Matchups in London, Mexico City and Puerto Rico. No official word

yet on the All-Star Game, which was set for July 14 at Dodger Stadium.

## Ouch

All-Star aces Chris Sale, Luis Severino and Noah Syndergaard are out while rehabbing from Tommy John surgery.

But these extra months might've given Aaron Judge, Justin Verlander, Cole Hamels and more time to fully recover. Who knows, maybe even Yoenis Cespedes has healed up.

And additional time off could've given Shohei Ohtani a cushion to build up his arm strength. Sure is neat having a two-way star to track in the majors.

## Watch this

So your family takes a road

trip each summer, hitting a new ballpark every time. You want to extend your 11-year streak, but there aren't any tickets for sale. Don't fret, just get creative.

Oracle Park in San Francisco provides a tremendous opportunity, for free. Fans can gather behind the right field wall, look through a fence and see the Giants. And if a home run sails out that way, fun to watch kayakers scramble for a Splash Shot souvenir.

The Roberto Clemente Bridge by PNC Park is a popular watching spot, the rooftops outside Wrigley Field are classic and a hotel in Toronto offers rooms with a terrific view from the outfield.

Hot dogs, however, are not included.

## Judge denies American women's soccer immediate appeal

**CALIFORNIA** (AP)—A federal judge has denied a request by American women's soccer players to allow an immediate appeal of his decision to throw out their claim of unequal pay against the U.S. Soccer Federation.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner in Los Angeles has scheduled a trial for Sept. 15 on the players' remaining claim of discriminatory work conditions.

Lawyers for the women had asked him to enter a final judgment on his decision to dismiss the pay claim, which would have allowed them to take the case to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

"The granting of an immediate appeal will not eliminate the possibility of two trials or the possibility of successive appeals involving interlocking facts," Klausner wrote Tuesday. "The court has declined the parties' request to stay trial pending the resolution of any appeal. And should a jury render a verdict unfavorable to plaintiffs on their remaining claims, there is no reason to think plaintiffs will not appeal that decision."

Klausner ruled May 1 the women could not prove discrimination over pay and granted in part the USSF's motion for a partial summary judgment. He said the union for the women's national

team rejected an offer to be paid under the same pay-to-play structure as the men's national team's collective bargaining agreement and the women accepted guaranteed salaries and greater benefits along with a different bonus structure.

He also refused to let go to trial allegations the women were discriminated against because they played more games on artificial turf.

Klausner left intact claims the USSF discriminated in its use of charter aircraft, and in the money it spent on commercial airfare, hotel accommodations, and medical and training support services.

"One way or another, we

intend to appeal the court's decision which does not account for the central fact in this case that women players have been paid at lesser rates than men who do the same job," Molly Levinson, a spokeswoman for the players, said in a statement.

New USSF President Cindy Parlow Cone—a former national team player—has said she hopes a settlement can be reached. The current collective bargaining agreement expires on Dec. 31, 2021.

Players sued in March 2018 under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and they asked for more than \$66 million in damages.



# Djokovic criticized over COVID-19 'horror show'

**BELGRADE**—World No. 1 Novak Djokovic was widely condemned on Wednesday for hosting a tennis exhibition where he was one of four players to test positive for the coronavirus, a lapse that sent shudders through a sport struggling to get back on its feet.

The Serbian star said he was “deeply sorry” in an unstinting apology for the now-cancelled Adria Tour, where social distancing was minimal and matches were played in front of thousands of fans.

However, criticism was swift and heavy, with many voicing concerns over attempts to restart professional tournaments in August, including the US Open Grand Slam which is scheduled to begin on August 31.

Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki all tested positive after taking part in the Adria Tour, where players embraced across the net, played basketball and even danced in a nightclub.

“I am so deeply sorry our tournament has caused harm,” Djokovic, 33, said in a statement. His wife Jelena also tested positive after attending the “philanthropic” tour in the once war-torn Balkans.

As the mocking hashtag #Djokovid circulated online, Australia’s Nick Kyrgios, so often in the crosshairs for his own on-court indiscretions, said the incident was pure “stupidity.”

“Don’t @ me for anything I’ve done that has been ‘irresponsible’ or classified as ‘stupidity’ -- this takes the cake,” tweeted the world No. 40.

Britain’s Andy Murray, a three-time Grand Slam winner who has known Djokovic



since their junior days, said: “I don’t think it has been a great look for tennis.”

“In hindsight, it’s not something that should have gone ahead,” Murray told reporters. “It’s not surprising how many people have tested positive after seeing some of the images of the players’ party and the kids’ day. There was no social distancing in place.

“Some people have said

maybe this has put the US Open in doubt—which it may well do. But the measures and the protocols they have in place at the USTA (United States Tennis Association) are different to Serbia and Croatia. No fans for a start.”

## PR disaster

Djokovic is unbeaten this year, a run that includes winning

his 17th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, but COVID-19 has been a public relations disaster for the eccentric Serb.

Even before the Adria Tour, he was criticized for breaking lockdown rules to train in Spain, and he then raised eyebrows by insisting he wouldn’t be prepared to vaccinate against the coronavirus.

Djokovic also described limits on players’ entourages at the US Open as “extreme” and “impossible”, again putting him at odds with much of public opinion.

His latest misstep has caused some to question his presidency of the ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals, or men’s tour) Player Council, which advises the ATP board.

AP  
In this Jan. 28, 2020 file photo, Serbia’s Novak Djokovic reacts as he talks about the death of his friend Kobe Bryant during an on-court interview following his quarterfinal win over Canada’s Milos Raonic at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia.

Tennis has been particularly hard-hit by the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions because it is a global circuit with players from all over the world.

“I think there’s a lot of his peer group who are scratching their heads,” celebrated coach Paul Annacone told Tennis.com.

“I was totally anxiety-ridden and very disappointed because the restart, or the reimagining of how we can start (tennis) is just about eight weeks away. And with all these opportunities to try to start in a progression, to me, it felt like they skipped about 15 steps.”

Martina Navratilova, who won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, tweeted: “Yikes... this is not good and it’s a pattern... What now, US Open? Roland Garros? We have a lot of work to do.”

Brazil’s Bruno Soares, a doubles player who sits on the Player Council, called the Adria Tour a “horror show”, while ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi said it was a lesson for other tournaments.

“It’s a little bit like when you tell your kids when they try to learn to ride the bike to wear the helmet,” Gaudenzi said. “It’s ‘no, no, no.’”

“And they ride the bike, they fall, and then they wear the helmet.” (AP/NBC)



## TAMPA, Fla.

(AP) — Tom

Brady continues to prepare for his first season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, working out with teammates at a private school despite a union recommendation that players not conduct any more group practices before training camp.

The six-time Super Bowl champion was joined on the field Tuesday by a group of teammates that included tight end Rob Gronkowski, quarterbacks Blaine Gabbert and Ryan Griffin, center Ryan Jensen, cornerback Jamel Dean and safety Mike Edwards.

With NFL training facilities still closed to players because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brady has been leading small voluntary workouts near downtown Tampa for much of the past month.

The latest session came just three days after the Bucs confirmed an unspecified num-

## Brady continues group workouts amid restrictions

ber of “individuals” tested positive for COVID-19 at the team’s training center.

The same day, NFL Players Association medical director Dr. Thom Mayer, recommended all NFL players refrain from working out in group settings until training camp begins next month.

“It is our consensus medical opinion that in light of the increase in COVID-19 cases in certain states that no players should be engaged in practicing together in private workouts,” Mayer said.

The Bucs did not release the number or names of people who tested positive at the team’s headquarters.

“We immediately activated our COVID-19 Response Plan and vacated the affected areas, which will remain closed until extensive sanitization is completed,” the team said in a statement. “The individuals

who may have been exposed have already been notified and are following the established protocols which include a 14-day quarantine period.”

The club added the building would remain open for some employees and “all essential operations are continuing in preparation for the 2020 season.”

## Steelers will support players if they opt to kneel

In Pittsburgh, Steelers coach Mike Tomlin wants his players to feel comfortable speaking out about social justice in any way they see fit, provided it’s done thoughtfully and with class.

Kneeling included.

Tomlin said Tuesday the club has engaged in “intimate discussions” with players about how to use their public platform to help effect social change amid the fallout from

the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died while being taken into police custody in Minneapolis last month.

“Our position is simple,” Tomlin said. “We are going to support our players and their willingness to partake in this, whether it is statements or actions. You guys know my feelings, I have stated them in the past. Statements are good, but impact is better. Particularly long-term impact.”

The Steelers are going to leave it up to the players to let them determine how best to make that impact, though the team has created what Tomlin described as “structural committees” designed to help them organize their actions so they can “do things properly.”

Tomlin’s tone was a marked departure from his sense of frustration in 2017, when a miscommunication during the national anthem before a game

against the Chicago Bears left offensive tackle and Army veteran Alejandro Villanueva standing alone on the field saluting the flag while the rest of the team remained out of sight in a tunnel.

Tomlin stressed in the aftermath that his focus was on football and that figuring out what served as an appropriate form of protest was for “political beatniks to ponder.”

The league’s third-longest tenured head coach said his issue three years ago was timing. The chaos in Chicago happened during the regular season. Floyd’s death, coming during a relatively quiet period for the NFL, “allowed us to really unearth some discussions and take our time,” according to Tomlin.

All-Pro defensive end Cam Heyward said last week the Steelers would be united in any form of protest they may

choose to adopt in 2020.

Tomlin has long pointed toward his team’s work off the field—particularly on Tuesdays in the fall, when the players are typically off and doing charity work in the Pittsburgh area—as proof it is not just interested in making statements on Sunday afternoons. He doesn’t anticipate that changing.

“This unrest is an opportunity to learn, to listen and to grow and to make sure you take care of yourself, your own heart and your own home first and work from there,” said Tomlin, who is one of the three active Black head coaches in the league. “That’s something I try to live by and try to encourage our guys to live by.”

When he’s not trying to help his players navigate an uncertain social landscape, Tomlin is focusing on attempting to get 90 players ready for a training camp unlike any other.



# Nuggets star Jokic tests positive for coronavirus



**DENVER (AP)**—All-Star forward Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets has tested positive for the coronavirus and is quarantining in his native Serbia, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

Jokic is expected to return to Denver long before the team leaves for the Disney complex for the restart of the NBA season next month, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on Tuesday on condition of anonymity because neither the player nor the team acknowledged the positive test publicly.

ESPN and The Denver Post previously reported Jokic's positive test, which came on the same day that another top Serbian athlete -- Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranked men's tennis player—revealed that he and his wife had tested positive for the virus.

Djokovic and Jokic were together at an event earlier this month, though it cannot

be concluded it played in a role in the positive test of either athlete.

Jokic is averaging 20.2 points and 10.2 rebounds this season for Denver. Only four other players —Minnesota's Karl-Anthony Towns, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, Atlanta's John Collins and Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo—are averaging at least 20 points and 10 rebounds this season.

When the season resumes July 30 at Disney's ESPN Wide World of Sports complex, the Nuggets will start with a 43-22 record, placing them 1 1/2 games behind the second-place Los Angeles Clippers and 1 1/2 games ahead of fourth-place Utah in the Western Conference playoff race.

Photos of Jokic during the NBA's shutdown clearly suggest that he's slimmed down during his time off, and Nuggets President Tim Connelly raved about the new physique earlier this month to Altitude Sports Radio.

"He's got abs," Connelly said in that interview. "I've never seen him have abs before."

Last week, Nuggets coach Michael Malone revealed he tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies and added that he believes he had the virus in March.

## Bradley to sit out restart

In Los Angeles, Lakers guard Avery Bradley has decided to sit out the NBA's upcoming resumption of the season in Florida.

He told ESPN on Tuesday night that he wants to remain



**AP**  
In this Jan. 12, 2020 file photo, Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) dribbles against Los Angeles Clippers guard Rodney McGruder (19) during the third quarter of an NBA game in Denver.

tions with the NBA" on a 22-team resumption. It wasn't a done deal.

But with the planned Disney World restart approaching, the union, as expected, has approved all relevant details.

Talk of players boycotting the resumption en masse never turned into reality. Some individuals—Wizards forward Davis Bertans and Trail Blazers forward Trevor Ariza so far—will decide to sit out. But that will be a personal choice. As a collective, players are playing.

Of course, many still have concerns—from coronavirus to injury to standard of living in the bubble to social justice.

The enhanced insurance is designed to assuage players worried about injury. Several players entering their contract-extension window—Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell, Heat big Bam Adebayo, Kings guard De'Aaron Fox and Lakers forward Kyle Kuzma—pushed for this. These young players have been relatively modestly paid so far and stand to land major paydays this offseason. Of course, a question: Who will foot the cost of this enhanced insurance? It can be expensive.

Not playing would have been far more costly for players.

with his wife and three children, including a 6-year-old son with a history of respiratory illnesses. By sitting out, Bradley figures to lose a projected \$650,000 in salary.

Bradley averaged 8.6 points and 2.3 rebounds while starting 44 games before the season was shut down in March due to the coronavirus. The Lakers are the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference heading into the 22-team restart.

"I can't imagine making any decision that might put my family's health and well-being at even the slightest risk," Bradley told ESPN. "As prom-

ised also, I will use this time away to focus on the formation of projects to help strengthen my communities."

Bradley and Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving have been vocal leaders of a players' coalition that has sought to keep a focus on social justice and racial equality issues.

## Cousins not returning

DeMarcus Cousins isn't signing with the Wizards.

Or anyone for the NBA's resumption at Disney World.

Cousins tore his quad in the second game of the 2019 playoffs, rushed back for the NBA

Finals then tore his ACL in August. No wonder Cousins, who also tore his Achilles in 2018, isn't signing now.

The Lakers waived Cousins in February, when he was expected to miss the rest of the season and Los Angeles needed a roster spot for Markieff Morris. With the season delayed for coronavirus, that opened the door for Cousins returning elsewhere. But he won't walk through it.

## Revised CBA

The National Basketball Players Association only "approved further negotia-

## NMA

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been suspended indefinitely. Meanwhile, beside World Athletics, the Outbreak Prevention Taskforce also had representatives from the International Cycling Union, World Triathlon, International Ski Federation, World Rowing, the International Paralympic Committee, and the World Health Organization.

The online risk assessment and mitigation tool is available at <https://idom.worldathletics.org/>.

## LOW

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also empathizes with them for the disruptions of the program due to the two super typhoons that hit the islands and now this pandemic.

"During these unprecedented times, it is easy to push sports aside, but for student-athletes these sports are incredibly important to their social, emotional, and physical developments. By no fault of their own, student-athletes have gotten the short end of the stick dating back all the way to Super Typhoon Soudelor (Aug. 2015). As a former student-athlete myself, I know the importance of meaningful athletic opportunities for our students and will fight tooth and nail to ensure that kids throughout the CNMI continue to have access to sporting opportunities," said Gross.

Last school year, PSS was able to hold basketball for elementary, middle, and high school students, canoe for high school, and volley-



Helen Kim moves in for a return during a tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. Tennis is considered as a low risk sport for students at this time of COVID-19 pandemic.

ball for girls middle and high school and boys high school. The boys middle school volleyball playoff round was supposed to take place on the weekend (March 14) that the government started banning public gatherings, including sports competitions, due to the pandemic. The biggest

school meet in the CNMI, the McDonald's/PSS All Schools Track and Field Championships has been shelved, too.

Meanwhile, with students on break and organized sports and competitions are still not allowed, Gross is encouraging students to find ways to remain active and work on their skills.

"I highly encourage kids to continue working hard to improve their fitness, both physical and mental, as well as their sport specific skills, while remaining vigilant in the practice of social distancing and the use of appropriate PPEs," the Micronesian Games multiple medalist said.



A Hopwood Middle School 1 student bumps the ball during their game against Hopwood 3 in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.





MLB tries again with short season, skewed rules

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Djokovic criticized over COVID-19 'horror show'

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 'Low risk' sports planned for students

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Once interscholastic competitions are allowed, the Public School System Student Support Services Athletic Program will have “low risk” sports first in its calendar of events.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Runners line up for the 4x100m relay during last year's All Schools track meet. This year's competition was shelved due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PSS Athletic Program director Nick Gross said that they are currently looking at golf (for high school only), modified cross country and triathlon races, table tennis, tennis, and swimming.

“All ‘traditional’ team sports’ (basketball, volleyball, canoe, soccer, fastpitch softball, etc) will be tabled until the second semester or until a COVID-19 vaccine has been identified and made available to the public,” Gross said.

The many-time CNMI National Athletics Team member added that events are subject for changes and approval of PSS.

“Keep in mind that until the PSS decides on our method of opening/instruction for SY20-21, all of the Athletic Department plans are subject to change. Therefore, I’m using the current COVID-19 pandemic and the inherent dangers associated with it to investigate expansion sports that would allow us to keep our students, coaches, and support staff as safe as possible and socially distanced,” Gross said.

Once they get the go-ahead, the director said appropriate PPE’s will be leveraged and implemented at all PSS athletic events for everyone’s safety.

While Gross understands the concerns for the health and welfare of the student-athletes and other stakeholders in interscholastic competitions, he

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A Saipan Southern High School player pulls up for a shot against Kagman High School defenders during their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Basketball may be played in the second semester of the new school year.

## NMA receives info on risk assessment for staging event



In this file photo, participants in the Saipan Marathon head out of the course.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

With various sports trying to return to normalcy amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Northern Marianas Athletics stands with World Athletics in conducting risk assessment first before holding any event.

NMA recently joined an info session among member federations of the Oceania Athletics Association to learn about an online risk assessment and mitigation tool for endurance event organizers formulated by Outbreak Prevention Taskforce, which was formed by World Athletics with the International Institute for Race Medicine.

The tool, according to World Athletics website, fo-

cuses on assessing the risk of the event in quantitative and qualitative ways, establishing the community and the event’s preparedness for the risks of COVID-19, and clarifying the steps to take to further mitigate and reduce the risk.

NMA secretary general and OAA president Robin Sapong said they will share the tool to other stakeholders in athletics, including fellow sports federations and government agencies.

“The NMA will work closely with the CNMI COVID-19 Task, Marianas Visitors Authority, Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands, Northern Marianas Sports As-

sociation, and Public School System,” Sapong said.

At this time, NMA has no plan yet to hold any events/competitions, but before the

COVID-19 pandemic, the association had been involved in the Saipan Marathon and McDonald’s/PSS Schools Track and Field Championships, which both draw hundreds of athletes, volunteers, and spectators. This year, NMA was supposed to host the Micronesian Regional Championships, too, but the event that also features Guam, Palau, Kiribati, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia athletes, has

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